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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

RADIO IRAN DISCUSSES ARMENIAN EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 19 Jan 83 p 2

/Text/ In its program entitled "Revolution and the Responsible" broadcast at 7:30 am last Thursday, Radio Iran's announcer answered a question from a woman concerning the teaching of the Armenian language in Armenian schools. A translation of the broadcast questions and answers follows:

Question: "Greetings to you. Article 25 /as published - should be 15/ of the "Constitution allows the teaching in schools of each nationality language alongside Persian. I would now like to know why the Ministry of Education and Training does not permit the Armenians to have the Armenian language taught in Armenian schools?"

Answer: As you mentioned Article 15 of the Constitution states that local and nationality languages and literature may be taught alongside the official Persian language. That is right. This is totally correct and religious minorities also are free to practice matters concerning their religion, faith and belief according to their convictions. There are two issues concerning literature and language. The first is the program of the Ministry of Education and Training. The other is the program of the minorities. That is to say, the Ministry of Education and Training has a curriculum which, according to the Constitution, determines the education and training of all the children of this country and the minorities have a program of their own.

As far as I know the matter of disagreement is that the Armenian minority, our Armenian brothers, want to have the teaching of the Armenian language within the school hours, something which is connected as published with the curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Training. For instance, they wish to have religious and Armenian-language lessons or any lesson they want or have in mind to be in Armenian.

It is the opinion of the Ministry of Education and Training that the education and training curriculum hours are reserved for the program of the ministry. If religious minorities wish, according to Article 15, to have teachings of their own language, literature, history or any other subject, they are free to do so outside the curriculum hours.

This is a problem that has been almost resolved and I hope that with concession on the part of the Ministry of Education and Training and the goodwill of the minister of education and training, as well as due consideration of the attention directed by minorities toward the development of their political life, they will be able to put the benefits of the constitution into practice and that these small difficulties will not allow problems to arise. These problems are not desired by the minorities or the great administration of our Islamic government.

Question: Therefore, as long as it is not within these hours, there is no problem?

Answer: The minorities may arrange the teaching of their language, culture and literature in any manner desired by them as long as it is after the hours designated by the curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Training.

The Ministry of Education and Training will not cause the least bit of difficulty in this regard. The issue concerns the curriculum where minor problems exist between the Armenian minority and the Ministry of Education and Training.

Presently, problems exist in Armenian schools not only in connection with the teaching of Armenian but also in regard to having religious teaching in Persian, a point which was neither raised by the person who asked the question nor referred to by the one who answered.

On the other hand, the responsible person who answered the question has presented the matter in such a way that indicates that Iranian-Armenians do not want to follow the curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Training but want to have their own program.

But this is not the essence of the issue and the problem is not the matter of two different programs.

The leaders of the Iranian-Armenian community, as representatives of that community, do not demand an additional education and training program for the Armenian schools. They are demanding that, as in the past, Armenian-language subjects and religious teachings be considered as part of the curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Training.

The basic difficulty is that a large number of teachers would be required to teach Armenian subjects outside the curriculum hours since they would be teaching for a limited number of hours such as 6 hours a week. This would cause the teaching of Armenian language subjects impossible.

Also, according to a circular issued by the supreme council of the Ministry of Education and Training religious teaching must be in the Persian language. The existence of this circular obviously has been "forgotten" by the person who asked the question, as well as by the one who answered it.

IRAN-TURKISH PROJECTS OF COOPERATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 20 Jan 83 p 1

[Article: "Projects of Extensive Cooperation Between Iran and Turkey"]

[Text] A Turkish economic-commercial delegation which is presently in Tehran, led by the minister of energy and natural resources, met and talked with Deputy Minister of Commerce (Majid Hedayyatzadeh).

At this meeting the Iranian deputy minister of commerce stated: "We can oppose international imperialism by organization of an Islamic Common Market."

Turkey's minister of energy and natural resources noted at this meeting that Turkey would like to supply the needs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly in foodstuffs, agricultural products, meat products and other areas, as well as to import from Iran goods needed by Turkey, including petroleum and other goods.

The Turkish minister of energy proposed construction of a major highway between the two countries, as well as expansion of trade relations with Iran, development and improvement of rail service, air transportation and communications between the two countries, with extended operating hours at border customs stations. It was also decided to examine in greater detail, at the meeting of the ministers of commerce of the two countries which will be held in Turkey in the near future, possibilities for development of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Turkey's minister of energy also met and talked with Minister of State in Charge of the Plan and Budget Organization Banki. During this meeting he suggested, in view of Iran's abundance of energy resources, that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran produce electric power in West Azarbaijan Province and sell it to Turkey.

The head of the Turkish delegation and his associates met with Minister of Mines and Metals Musavian and a number of other officials, a meeting at which both sides discussed mutual technical cooperation.

The head of Turkey's Chamber of Commerce also met with an assistant department chief at the Ministry of Mines and Metals, during which a number of issues pertaining to cooperation were discussed.

Turkey's minister of energy and natural resources and the accompanying economic delegation met with Iranian Minister of Energy Dr Hasan Qafuri-Fard.

During this meeting they discussed cooperation between the two countries pertaining to water, electric power, and energy.

During this meeting Dr Qafuri-Fard invited Turkish specialists to take part in an energy council which is to be set up in Iran.

Turkey's minister of energy also expressed his government's readiness to engage in cooperative undertakings between the two countries.

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CSO: 4605/19

NEW HEAD OF SUFI COUNCIL DESCRIBES VIEWS ON STATE, RELIGION

Cairo MAYU in Arabic 31 Jan 83 p 4

/Article by Fu'ad al-Sayyid: "The First Statement by Dr Al-Taftazani, New Chairman of the Higher Sufi Council: Everything Proponents of Sufism State That Violates the Koran and the Sayings and Doings of the Prophet Is To Be Rejected"/

/Text Recently Dr Abu-al-Wafa al-Ghunaymi al-Taftazani, the vice president of Cairo University, was chosen chairman of the Higher Sufi Council and paramount sheikh of the Sufi orders, as successor to the late Shaykh Muhammad Mahmud al-Sutuhi.

The Sufi orderd welcome this choice, which is to be considered proper guidance for the call to Sufism, in view of the lofty scholarly position Dr al-Taftazani enjoys.

On this occasion, this conversation concerning the role and mission of Sufism was held with Dr al-Taftazani.

I asked him, "What is the reason for the controversy that is taking place on the mission of Sufism, between its supporters and opponents?"

He said, "In reality, I have faced this sort of question before. It indicates a desire on the part of the people asking the question to arrive at the truth, and for this they are to be praised. However, our scale must always be in balance in distinguishing among the views and opinions of the book of God and the sayings and doings of his prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him.

"The imam al-Junayd said, 'Whoever has not memorized the Koran and written out the traditions of the prophet is not to be emulated in this regard.' He was talking about Sufism, because this knowledge of ours is restricted by the holy book and the sayings and doings of the prophet. He also says, 'The roads are all blocked off /sic to the higher morality for those who required the effects of the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, followed his sayings and doings, and bound themselves to his path.' For that reason any statements by or condⁿitions of certain proponents of Sufism that violate the holy book and the sayings and doings of the prophet are to be rejected.'

"The imam al-Shadhili told his pupils, out of advice, 'If your investigation is opposed to the holy book and the sayings and doings of the prophet, cast it away, and state "God has assured me of chastity through the protection of the holy book and the sayings and doings of the prophet but has not assured me of it through the protection of investigations."'"

The Concept of Sufism

I asked him, "What is proper Sufism, apart from the views of supporters and opponents?"

He said, "As far as the differences of opinion on the concept of Sufism go, those may be ascribed to a lack of proper understanding of Sufism. The source of proper Sufism, in morality and conduct, is the holy Koran, the proper sayings and doings of the prophet, and the statements and conditions of the companions of the prophet.

"Ibn al-Qiyam, who was a student of ibn Taymiyah, says, in his book 'The Paths of Those Who Follow the Spiritual Way,' 'The statements of people who speak eloquently regarding this learning (that is, the learning of Sufism) are in agreement that Sufism is morality.'

"Ibn Taymiyah sometimes gave this learning the name 'the study of conduct.' What the proponents of the al-Salafiyah school reject in Sufism is the philosophical Sufism which is obscure in its terminology, as is the case with the sufism of Ibn 'Arabi or the recent forms of Sufism which have been marred by some deviant acts among the common people.

"The proper form of Sufism, which is founded on the holy book and the sayings and doings of the prophet and was the goal of bringing people up on the virtuous attributes of emulating the prophet and his companions, has not been rejected by any of the scholars of Islam. You normally find people who reject Sufism among those who have not become deeply versed in the study of it and the understanding of the significance of it, or people who take a prejudged sectarian position on it."

The Platform of Sufism on Education

/I asked/ "What is Sufism's platform on religious education?"

Dr al-Taftazani said, "It is the platform of the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, that of commanding the acceptable and prohibiting the reprehensible, and the call to God's path through wisdom, proper exhortation, and friendly debate when that is needed. The basis of the path of Sufism is the abandonment of objectionable characteristics, the embrace of their opposite in the form of praiseworthy characteristics, and knowledge of almighty God. This demands that one fight against one's baser self in carrying out the words of almighty God, 'We have shown our way to those who have fought on our behalf, for God is on the side of those who act virtuously.'"

On the platform of education, Dr al-Taftazani went on to state, "Sufism considers the struggle with the self to be the beginning of the road to God. As for the stages in the road, in the mind of the Sufis, they are what is known as positions and conditions. To them, positions are such things as repentance, asceticism, patience, satisfaction, gratitude, the placing of trust in and affection for God and the prophet, and other matters which God has ordered of us in the holy Koran and placed in the sayings and doings of the prophet.

"As for conditions, these are the psychological conditions that the persons pursuing this path have followed--closeness to and fear of God, hope in God, control or restraint toward sin and shortcomings, delight or joy in what God has ordered, and other passing states that the Sufi has with respect to God. The knowledge of almighty God is the end of the road and its loftiest goal. It is the fruit of moral behavior in all conditions that know of nothing except acting on the provisions of Islamic law and exercising conduct based on its morality.

"What distinguishes the Sufis in their call for God's path is the fact that the road to hope in God is opened up before the infractious and the sinners, so that they will not lose confidence in themselves and continue in their deviant conduct as they develop the traits of benevolence among people. Almighty glorious God does not forgive people's taking other gods besides him, but he forgives what is less than that among the people he wishes. This explains the spread of sufism, because it brings people together around god in terms of their condition and conduct, in the easiest of ways."

The proliferation of Sufic Orders

I asked Dr al-Taftazani, "Some people object to the proliferation of Sufic orders, although their revelation is the same. What is your view, especially since the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, prohibited pluralism in his well known tradition?"

He said, "This proliferation may be attributed to the fact that every Sufic order is similar to a school, has a platform with regard to education, and is known by the name of its founder. Since the sixth and seventh centuries of Islam, major sheikhs have emerged who have called people to perfect their knowledge and work and a number of students rallied around each of them and formed an order or school which had a platform of education.

"However, Sufism as morality and conduct is the same, belief and Islamic law are the same, and all the Sufic orders belong to the creed of the Sunnites (the people of the sayings and doings of the prophet) and the group, and in their rulings act on the basis of the four well known creeds of the sayings and doings of the prophet.

"The tradition which we refer to, in which he says 'My nation is broken down into 72 groups,' and so forth, that is not one of the uninterrupted traditions; rather, it is the books of sects that have mentioned it. Even if we accept that tradition is valid, what it means is differences among Moslems

regarding beliefs or principles of religion; those are differences that have been prohibited by Islamic law because they weaken the Moslems and turn them into factions.

"Reflect deeply over the meaning of his almighty words, 'I am not among those who have fragmented their religion and have become factions; rather, their affairs are with God, and he warned them of what they were doing.' Therefore there is no harm in a proliferation of orders in terms of practical educational curricula, as long as everyone is committed to the proper belief and the provisions of Islamic law, in accordance with the creed of the Sunnites and the groups."

Safi and Sufi

I asked him, "What is the origin of the word 'sufi,' and to what can it be attributed?"

He said, "There is a dispute over the derivation of the word 'sufi.' There are people who attribute it to the people of the ledge (al-Saffah). The people of the ledge were a group with whom the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, met. The people of the ledge were a clan of poor people, people who had fled with the prophet and were his partisans and for whom a ledge was built at the back of the Mosque of the Prophet, where they would reside. They were known for devout worship and asceticism. The people who had developed this point of view said, 'The conditions of asceticism, worship and Sufism of the people who came later are similar to those of the people of the ledge.' With respect to the derivation of the word, as far as (al Saffa) goes, 'Savi,' it has been said that the word 'sufi' comes from purity (safa'). The correct point, from the standpoint of the origin of the word 'sufi' in terms of semantics, is that it is derived from wool (al-suf); it is said that a man becomes a Sufi if he wears wool. Wearing wool was an expression of worshipfulness and asceticism among the earliest Moslems.

"Many Sufis themselves hold to the latter view, among them al-Siraj al-Tusi, in his book 'The Brilliance.' Ibn Khaldun and others support him."

Dr al-Taftazani went on to say, "The moral, in our view, does not lie in the origins of the designation but in the meaning to which the expression 'to act as a Sufi' refers. The word has become solidly rooted in the Islamic heritage, in the meaning of morality and conduct, or in the meaning of a platform of education whose fundamental point is elimination of the self and the elevation of the self to the moral perfection that Islam has called for."

When Did Sufism Arise?

I asked Dr al-Taftazani, "When did sufism arise? Was that in the era of the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace?"

He said, "The word Sufi, or Sufism was not know in the era of the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, or in the era of the companions and followers

of the prophet. Rather, it became known in Islamic history in the latter part of the second Islamic century, although the basic condition which the word 'Sufism' refers to existed in the era of the prophet and his companions.

"On this subject, ibn Khaldun says, 'The scholarly subject of Sufism is a subject of Islamic law (that is, it is one of the subjects that are derived from the holy book and the sayings and doings of the prophet), and its essence is the diligent pursuit of worship, the withdrawal into almighty God, the renunciation of the embellishments and ornaments of the world, asceticism toward the pleasures the public engages in, money, and status, and a sole preoccupation with morality in secluded worship.' He refers to devoted application. That was general among the companions of the prophet and the early figures. When the receptivity toward the world emerged in the second century and later, it was concerned with people who ventured to worship in the name of Sufis and Sufism.

"Al-Qushayri also explains, in 'The Mission,' why the first generation of Moslems was not called Sufi, saying, 'After the death of the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, the Moslems who had been his companions considered it a paramount honor to be called the companions of the prophet. The same was the case with the generation that followed them--they considered that giving them the expression of followers was an honor to them. Therefore the designation of people who ventured to worship as ascetics, servants, devout persons, weepers, then Sufis did not appear until after the generation of the companions and followers of the prophet.'

The Emergence of Sufism as a Scholarly Discipline

"As to when Sufism emerged as a scholarly discipline, that was in the third century of Islam, with the movement of the codification of learning. Scholarly specialization also appeared in that period. The scholars who were concerned with the study of belief and the defense of belief were known as educated persons, and their learning was known as the 'knowledge of unification' or 'scholastic theology.' The scholars who were concerned with the study of the practical provisions of Islamic law were known as jurists, and their scholarly discipline as the science of jurisprudence. Scholars who were concerned with morality, conduct, diseases of the mind and the method of treating them were known as Sufis, and their scholarly discipline was known as Sufism."

The Optimum Method for Making the Appeal

Finally, I asked him, "What is your method for propagating the appeal and what is your view of the pursuit of the approach of violence that some people resort to?"

Dr al-Taftazani said, "God has ordered us to make our appeal to him through perspicacity, wisdom and good exhortation, and violence is not the optimum way

for making the appeal. The prophet of God, on whom be God's prayers and peace, said, 'Whoever prohibits gentleness prohibits the good.' He also said, 'A'ishah, God is a companion who loves kindness and gives to kindness what he does not give to violence and what he does not give to the likes of violence.' He also says, 'Kindness does not exist in anything without being beautified, and is not absent from anything without its being marred.'"

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CSO: 4504/198

RECENT PERFORMANCE, FUTURE OF BELAYIM FIELD REVIEWED

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 2 Feb 83 pp 12, 13

/Article: "A Special Report from Belayim: The Well the Israelis Depleted"/

/Text/ The old man among Egyptian oilfields is called Belayim; it is 22 years old. It was the first offshore field in the Middle East. It was taken prisoner during the June 1967 war; Egypt regained it after the October 1973 victory. However, the field was returned to us in sickly, weak condition. When the Israelis took it over, its production was 94,000 barrels a day. They drained it, so that when it was returned to us its output was just 64,000 barrels a day. However, the young men of Egypt have realized how to deal with the ailing field; they have watched its 'performance' and cured it. They added another 25 years to its life.

How? That is a moving story.

The Belayim Marine field facing the Abu Rudays area of Sinai was discovered in 1960, and started producing the first barrel of oil in 1971. The field, after 21 years, still enjoys exceptional vitality, since the hypothetical life of fields, as estimated by geologists and oilmen, ranges from 20 to 25 years. There is a tale of sweat and toil behind the rejuvenation of this field.

I spent more than 40 hours going around the sites of the Belayim Land and Offshore fields. I am drawn to the field by various ties. It is the first field to be discovered under water in Egypt. The Israelis took it over in 1967 when it was producing 94,000 barrels a day, and, when it was returned, in November 1975, its productivity did not exceed 64,000 barrels a day. That is, it had declined by about 30,000 barrels a day!

The men's task at that time was a very heavy one, in the words of Eng Muhammad Khidr. When Eng Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din Hilal, the minister of petroleum, went to visit the men at the site, he brought them the solemn duty of upgrading the field and rejuvenating it, so that its past and its old rates could be restored.

Eng Khidr says,

"At that time, Egypt had emerged from its most glorious military and economic battle, the October war, and it was necessary that we contribute our efforts.

The words of Ahmad Hilal, the youthful oil minister, were injected into the field, and we started an exceptional effort under strange, severe circumstances. We received the field in weak, neglected condition, lacking in maintenance. The roads were almost destroyed, as were the power plants and the workers' houses. However, we began immediately, and in a short period of time, which did not exceed a year, we restored the field to its former output. With further unremitting effort, the rates leapt to record figures, and the field is now producing, with every day that dawns, about 130,000 barrels, which represents an increase of more than 150 percent, although the Israelis drilled three new wells in the field when they took it over."

The Israelis Just Took!

I asked/ "You say that Israel added three wells and nonetheless production declined from 94,000 to 64,000 barrels; what is your explanation of this phenomenon?"

The man who has spent more than 20 years with the fields in this area replied,

"The Israelis are not oilmen and they do not have an understanding of oil. In addition, they greatly neglected maintenance and were not concerned with cleaning wells or performing workovers. The nature of their character is that they only take, and do not give. Every field that yields needs maintenance and upkeep expenditures, in terms of its being protected. Therefore, when we received our fields, we immediately began the operations of maintenance and workover on all the wells, the surveillance of production and pressure and other things, such as immediately proceeding to use the most modern technology of the age. The plan started as follows:

"We immediately started seismographic survey operations to ascertain the dimensions of the field with modern electronic equipment.

"We also immediately started expanded studies of the oil reservoir in the field to determine the reserves, to see whether the old figures on the reserves still held or whether there had been changes that might revise our calculations. We used the information that had been available before the aggression, along with newly-obtained information."

Then the surprise came, and at this point the young engineer Muhammad 'Id, 45, the manager of the fields, picked up the discussion, saying,

"The new studies started to indicate something different, indicating great potential for increased reserves. All the old studies, and the opinions of the Egyptian geologists, stated that the field was of average worth, that is, that it was an average field, in the sense that it had started producing in 1961 and that it was likely, even by injecting water, which is a method for raising the capacity of the reservoir, that its life would come to 30 years, that is, totally ending in the latter part of the eighties or the early nineties, being optimistic.

The Behavior of the Field Was Different!

"We immediately started the plan to drill a group of wells," Eng Muhammad 'Id continued. "We drilled 17 wells, all of which were productive. The surprise then occurred in an offshore well, Number 113 Marine 9, when we saw that the behavior of the reservoir was different from what it had been in the past. We saw that the flow rate was high and that the pressure the production of the oil was under was also high. We always judge an oil reservoir by its behavior, and all the evidence and indications showed that there was something abnormal!"

I asked him, "What is your explanation for that?"

Eng 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bayyumi Diyah, 45, manager of operations, says, giving an explanation of the behavior of the reservoir,

"We saw that the oil flowing up out of this well, which is about 10 kilometers away from the existing wells, was moving at a high rate; we sat down to think, the three of us, Eng Muhammad Khidr, in his capacity as the old manager of the fields, and my brother Muhammad 'Id, and we considered that this flow was the result of one of two factors, either the side of the reservoir which was providing us under pressure with added quantities of oil we had not taken into consideration, or that the water had started encroaching from behind and the oil was flowing violently into this well. We went through some days of anxiety, waiting to see what would happen. All the studies, including the studies by the Italian party, confirmed that the field was of average worth and that the picture of the reservoir that was familiar in the early sixties had not changed. However, we started thinking beyond that well, and drilled a number of wells, starting with Well Six and going up to 24. We saw that the wells were all producing and were all in the exuberant flow of youth. They were all producing at high rates. These wells gave us confirmations that they were at the deepest point in the oil reservoir, and that we were not at the edge of the reservoir, as had been imagined--we were at the deepest point in the great oil deposit."

\$4 Million a Day in 1986

I asked the oil leaders in Sinai, who had their many maps in English and Italian in front of them, "Does this new development change the picture? More precisely, is the life of the oil reservoir being prolonged?"

Eng Muhammad Khidr smiled,

"Without a doubt. We are totally convinced that the life of the reservoir will be doubled, that is, that it will go on for a further 25 years."

I asked him, "Some people are fond of stating that the era of oil in Egypt is on the verge of ending."

Muhammad Khidr replied,

"They are unfamiliar with the real picture. They have not observed a single oilfield in their lives, and they have not seen the fantastic efforts that

that are being exerted on Egypt's behalf. It is an effort where science, study, enlightened research and modern technology are being brought to bear, and the oil is presenting a new picture every day. Then the operations of searching for new accumulations of oil are continuing. We have more than 50 international Companies in Egypt, exploring on every square inch of Egypt, in the desert, under the water, in every section of the mountains and under the sands. With praise to God, the picture is reassuring."

/I asked/ "With the new picture, and the size of the reservoir that became apparent with the drilling of the new wells, how can one develop the field?"

The manager of the fields replied,

"We have a plan which the Ministry of Petroleum has approved, which has been carefully studied with the foreign partner. This plan will require an investment of more than \$500 million in order for production to surge up from 130,000 to about 190,000 or 200,000 barrels a day, with God's will. We have actually started this plan, and you will see yourself at the site."

He pointed to a helicopter that was waiting and said, "That is waiting to take you out to the depths, to the sea, where you will see for yourself the efforts of the men of Egypt, men who are working under difficult circumstances in the intense cold and severe winds and frost that descend upon them at night, but are part of Egypt."

We rode the helicopter. You would think as it was descending onto the massive drilling rigs out in the water that it was dropping you into the depths of the sea. We went to fixed drilling platform one; the young engineer 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bayyumi, the manager of operations, was with me.

The craft brought us down.

The giant drilling platform, which stood with its legs thrust into the deepest waters of the Gulf, cost by itself \$100 million. It was as high as a building such as the al-Mujamma' on Liberation Square. It had six stories, a complete living environment, engineers, geologists, drillers, chemists, and a fine restaurant. I went up the stairs, which were like a building, and met the most beloved of Egypt's young people. This offshore platform was outfitted to drill 12 wells, and there was another platform set up to drill an additional 12 wells, so that the total would be 24 producing wells. They would all be completed by 1986, so that production could leap from 130,000 to 190,000 or 200,000 barrels. By a simple calculation, this well gives the Egyptian treasury \$4 million with every new day that dawns, and, after the expansion, that will leap to \$6 million.

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CSO: 4504/198

EGYPT

BRIEFS

MUBARAK INVITES PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT--Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—It has been announced here that the president of the Republic of Portugal, Antonio Ramalho, will visit Egypt during the period from 19-23 March, at the invitation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. During the visit, the two presidents will hold talks for deepening the channels of cooperation between Egypt and Portugal in various domains. [Text] [NC040824 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0814 GMT 4 Mar 83]

CSO: 4500/116

BASIC PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES DEBATE ISSUES

London AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR in English 28 Jan 83 p 6

[Text]

Without doubt one of the most important issues to be dealt with at the People's Congresses was the very manner in which these congresses operate. This provoked some cogent comment, including the following from one Libyan, worried about the danger of the denial of the people's authority:

'Sometimes when you are discussing something with a member of a particular People's Congress, he will tell you that it's a waste of time to attend the sessions of the People's Congress because "they do whatever they want". Then you realise the extent of the dangers which face the people's authority and ... why some people do not attend the People's Congresses' meetings ...

'You find yourself once again faced by this citizen and his consciousness of his freedom ... He says that the People's Committees are nothing more than General Secretariats and General Secretaries are nothing more than "ministers", while the General People's Committee is nothing more than a "Council of Ministers".'

The speaker said that this line of criticism was maintained by his acquaintance and that he said that faulty decisions, influenced by tribalism, had led the will of the People's Congresses and the advice of the revolutionary forces to be ignored. For this reason, the General Secretariat was unable, both technically and doctrinally to translate the masses' decisions into reality.

What about people's authority?

The speaker continued: 'This citizen points to the picture of the revolutionary thinker, the Leader Muammar Qadhafi and says, "May God prolong his life." And you ask, "What about the people's authority?" He answers you with a smile, "This will depend on education and on the passage of time." He tells you that this is a problem of the application of revolutionary force. You ask him in what sense and he replies that the mentality of the Secretaries of the People's Committees is more akin to that of government servants. You ask how this can be and he replies that the Secretaries take decisions and carry them out without the knowledge of the masses.'

The position of the speaker was made quite clear in his concluding remarks. Affirming that no decision could be taken outside the People's Congresses, other than executive decisions based on law approved by the people and passed by the General People's Congress, the speaker said that skirting round the People's Congresses was an infringement of the people's freedom. The speaker then wondered why his friend had not informed the General People's Congress and the liaison office of the revolutionary committees of his misgivings. The answer was simple, he had done so already. The answer to this, the speaker said, was to do so again, until someone takes notice.

The need to strengthen the people's authority had in fact been recognised before the Basic People's Congresses met, since one of the items on their agenda was the need to maintain popular control over the activities of the People's Committees and ensure that these bodies remain simply the executive arm of the People's Congresses. Muammar Qadhafi had himself referred last year to the need to widen popular participation in the People's Congresses, since such participation was the ultimate guarantee of the vitality of Libyan direct democracy. Decisions, the Leader stressed in a December television broadcast, could not be taken on the people's behalf, they had to take them themselves.

One of the issues which Libyans have had to deal with at the meetings of the Basic People's Congresses recently is the question of customs duties and tariffs. A speaker at one Basic People's Congress stressed the importance of ensuring that departments like the Customs Department remain a tool in the service of society. The same, he said, applied to this Passport Department, the Municipal Guard, the police and all those from barbers to bank employees who perform some public service.

The speaker said that the Customs Department was solely meant to ensure compliance with existing administrative and financial regulations and with ensuring that private individuals did not withdraw imported goods from the department's hands until the required customs duties had been paid. But, as the speaker revealed, the Customs Department was capable of exceeding its authority.

'No right'

'But the Customs Department,' the speaker said, 'has no right to seize goods imported for a public utility like a factory or an establishment, as recently happened when spare parts imported for a certain factory and petrochemical plant were held by the Customs Department and not released until the necessary payments had been made.'

'The factory was treated in the same way as a private individual, though it belongs not to an individual but to the whole of society ... this led to the closure of the factory and the cessation of production, resulting in great losses in an important productive enterprise.'

The speaker's view of such malpractices was clear. He said that he did not think there was any justification for the Customs Department's existence other than the need to apply decisions 'according to the policies specified by the People's Congresses.' The implication of the speaker's criticism was that this is not what has been happening. The speaker added that apart from the problem of the Customs Department exceeding its authority, there was also the question of the Passport Department whose members, the speaker said, were 'distinguished by a tremendous propensity for nepotism and corruption in the granting and withholding of visas and permits ...'

Another speaker at the Basic People's Congresses' recent meetings addressed the problem of the continued existence of socialist establishments which had not come up to popular expectations. 'Despite the destruction of the strongholds of exploitation,' the speaker said, and of 'the traps of the merchants and brokers, and their replacement by socialist establishments, we are forced to question the term "socialist" when applied to these establishments.'

'In reality,' he continued, 'these establishments do not have a socialist content which distinguishes them from capitalist exploitation, in addition to the fact that those working in these establishments are all wage workers and the slaves of the modern age, the same as wage workers all over the world.'

The speaker had already said that it was an undeniable truth that slavery would continue to exist so long as there are wage workers in the world. The age of slavery, the speaker asserted, would not come to an end until the time when wage workers became

full and, but implication, equal partners in production.

From the facts of the situation in the Libyan Jamahiriya, the speaker concluded that the socialist establishments were the product of 'a decaying capitalist system' and that the existing situation in Libya in relation to these establishments amounted to 'an inherited capitalist order.'

Exploitation continued

'These establishments,' the speaker said, 'are run by merchants who use all the means at their disposal to preserve the existing system. Their interests lie in (the system's) continuation, because the establishments and the markets have not abolished the exploiting companies and shops, but (they have) merely changed their names, replacing old merchants with new ones, who continue to exploit others just as the old merchants did and who have become responsible for establishments which were in the first place supposedly set up to destroy them ...'

It must be said that regrettably this criticism is not a new one to be heard in the Libyan Jamahiriya. The speaker continued in this critical vein: '... merchants who used to suck the blood of society bit by bit now do it wholesale ... and the merchants who used to sign cheques for thousands ... now sign cheques for millions ...'

The socialist establishments, the speaker asserted, had been turned into 'nests from which they (the merchants) carry out plots against the revolution and the masses.' The speaker then made the serious charge that companies and establishments had been set up and then deliberately bankrupted for the political purpose of making people hostile to the system.

If the revolutionary forces in the Libyan Jamahiriya did not take action against the merchants, then they and the brokers, the remnants of the old society and those misusing their position in socialist establishments and People's Markets, would continue to

gather their forces, hatch conspiracies and await the opportunity to plunder society's wealth and restore a bourgeois hegemony over it.

But how should these threats to the socialist system be dealt with? The speaker set out his solution succinctly and, in concluding his address, warned of the dangers if nothing was done:

'Only the revolutionary forces are capable of changing, transforming and building the new socialist society... anything else would result in reactionary forces making their nests in the new socialist structure... This sick group of people will make society march ahead one step at a time, but each time they allow society to take one step forward, they take it a thousand steps backwards... Is there any justification for remaining silent about these activities... or is it not necessary to immediately carry out decisive revolutionary action?'

In their different ways, the three speakers whose addresses to the People's Congresses have been quoted, have all dealt with various aspects of the same problem, namely the problem of implementing the Third Universal Theory's dicta in the Libyan Jamahiriya. An examination of the criticisms aired by these three speakers shows that a solution to this problem lies, as always, with the people.

People's authority

Since the Declaration of the Authority of the People in 1977, the institutions of direct democracy have been established in the Libyan Jamahiriya. The theory of their workings is unchallengeable, since the People's Congresses are the one sure way of enabling the people to exercise their own authority over what goes on in the Libyan Jamahiriya.

But the practice of their workings is, as the first speaker suggested, a different matter. If the People's Congresses are to be totally effective — and it does not matter whether this is at Basic, Municipal or General level — then everyone must participate in their deliberations. If the People's Committees or any other body in the Jamahiriya, from the Customs Department to the socialist establishments, take decisions in defiance of the people, then it is up to the people to remedy this through fuller participation in their People's Congresses. At the same time, there is no doubt, as the last speaker said, that the revolutionary committees have their own vital role to play in explaining the doctrine of the Third Universal Theory and inciting the people to take an even firmer grip of their own lives and destinies.

ELECTRICITY CONTROL CENTER UNDERGOES TESTS

London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 33, Feb 83 p 18

[Text]

INITIAL TESTS have been conducted of the new electricity system control centre in the north eastern Libyan town of Tobruk, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA announced on 21st December. The centre, on which work started in 1979, allows the control of 10.5, 30 and 60 megavolt stations, and street lighting and siren systems in a wide area. JANA noted that the centre controls electricity stations in the Tobruk, Marsas, Kardaba, Jaghboub and Shaaba regions, and stations supplying electricity to Kaara, Kamboot, Bir Lahshab, Qasr al Jadi and Barda.

The rapid expansion of electricity generating capacity in north east Libya, meanwhile, was underlined late last year with the announcement that tender invitations were imminent for the third extension to the Benghazi North power and desalination plant. The work will cost at least \$675 million, and the turnkey contract will entail the installation of three 120 MW steam turbines and four 25,000 cubic metres per day desalination units, as well as the construction of buildings and workshops, sea water reservoirs and pumping stations and fresh-water pumping stations and reservoirs in Benghazi and in a surrounding area of 45 kilometres radius.

The Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan allocates \$6.6 billion to the electricity sector, and provides for an increase in the country's generating capacity from 4,800 MW in 1980 to 9,400 MW in 1985.

CSO: 4500/110

DANISH FIRM PROVIDES HOUSING DESIGNS

London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 33, Feb 83 p 19

[Text]

THE DANISH firm of Larsen & Nielson is providing design work, precast concrete technology and production assistance for the \$1.4 billion housing and classroom construction project for which South Korea's Daewoo Corporation has the main building contract. The scheme entails the construction of 5,000 homes in Tripoli and 7,000 in Benghazi, as well as 2,500 classrooms in eleven Libyan municipalities. A precast concrete factory related to the project is nearing completion near Tripoli. Most of the homes will be in four storey blocks, but some will be in seven storey buildings. The Danish firm will send quality control staff and production assistants to the Jamahiriya.

Daewoo has also appointed the British consultant firm Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners to assist with design work and in laying public utilities to the housing sites.

A landmark in Daewoo's project came in December when work on the 5,000 homes in Tripoli was officially inaugurated with the laying of a foundation stone at a ceremony attended by Mr Jadallah Azouz Talhi, Secretary of the General People's Committee, Social

Security Secretary Mr Ibrahim al Faqi Hassan and Education Secretary Abd al Hafiz Zulaytini. The new housing in the Libyan Jamahiriya will be distributed between the neighbourhoods of Janzour, Abu Haraida and Qurabully, and will be built in conjunction with a full range of new shopping, medical and educational facilities.

Ever since the early 1970s when the Al Fateh Revolution moved to secure fair oil prices from the western multinationals, Libya has been engaged in a major and sustained construction boom as the revolutionary authorities have sought both to expand the housing and welfare facilities available to Libyans and to assure the country's longer-term economic future by setting up new industrial and agricultural schemes to lessen Libya's dependence on the oil sector. As well as winning main construction contracts, foreign firms have also benefited from important ancillary awards. In December, for example, it was announced that Austria's Overhoff & Company has a \$3 million order to supply desalination and sewerage facilities for a building site camp that will accommodate up to 9,000 workers.

CSO: 4500/110

PETROCHEMICALS SECTOR CONTRACTS OFFERED

London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 33, Feb 83 p 18

[Text]

THE ISSUE of tender documents on 20th December to eight international companies for major new ammonia and urea plants clearly indicates that last year's slow-down in the pace of industrial construction in the Jamahiriya, related to the world oil glut, is coming to an end. Potential contractors for the new plants, to be built at a \$1 billion fertiliser complex at Sirte, on the coast some 400 kilometres east of Tripoli, are Creusot-Loire and Heurtey Industries, both of France; an Italian-French concern linking Technipetrol and Technip; Italy's Snamprogetti; London-based M W Kellogg and Milan-based Foster Wheeler Italiana, both subsidiaries of US companies; West Germany's Uhde, and a Japanese venture of Toyo Engineering Corporation and Chiyoda Chemical Engineering & Construction Company.

The Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretariat has appointed the British firm Davy McKee as management consultants for the Sirte scheme, and the company will issue tender documents for the remaining process units and off-site packages for the complex in the coming year.

The Sirte complex is scheduled to

enter operation at the end of 1987, and will comprise two 1,350 tonnes per day ammonia plants, one 1,740 tonnes per day urea unit, one 300 tonnes per day ammonium sulphate plant, one 500 tonnes per day sulphuric acid unit, and two 500 tonnes per day NPK (nitrogen phosphorus potassium) units. The complex will satisfy domestic demand for granular fertiliser, and provide ammonia and urea for export.

Work is meanwhile pressing ahead fast at the Ras Lanuf petrochemicals complex, on the coast 350 kilometres south west of Benghazi, which is the largest under construction in the Jamahiriya. At the heart of the complex is a 220,000 barrels per day oil refinery, being built at a cost of \$40 million by the Italian firm Saipem, and in November it was announced that the refinery should be completed in the first half of 1983. It was also disclosed late last year that work was almost complete on a twelve kilometre, 24 inch diameter oil pipeline to the refinery, laid at a cost of \$2.7 million.

Work is also well advanced on another key element in the Ras Lanuf complex — a \$60 million, 330,000 tonnes per annum ethylene

plant being built by Italy's Belleli Industrie Meccaniche. The ethylene plant will supply a range of petrochemicals units, including polypropylene plant, a monomer ethylene glycol plant, and low and high density polyethylene unit.

Most of the work at Ras Lanuf is being undertaken by Italian contractors, but British firms have won some important subsidiary contracts. It was recently disclosed that Britain's Frost Instruments has a \$1.3 million order to equip a medical centre and three laboratories for the ethylene plant. The equipment will arrive soon, and will be installed by a company team in March. The British firm Propafloor, meanwhile, is to supply flooring worth \$140,250 for a computer control room at the port being built for the Ras Lanuf complex at a cost of \$300 million by South Korea's Hyundai Engineering & Construction Company.

The Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan allocates \$12.9 billion for the establishment of new industrial projects — more than for any other sector. Of the total, \$8.9 billion is earmarked for heavy industrial plants, including petrochemicals schemes.

CSO: 4500/110

SOUTHERN ROADS OPEN

London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 33, FEB 83 p 19

[Text]

AN IMPORTANT landmark in the development of the Libyan Jamahiriya's road network came on 26th December when two major new roads were officially opened in the southern municipalities of Sebha and Shatta at a ceremony attended by Mr Jadallah Azouz Talhi, Secretary of the General People's Committee, and the Secretaries for Communications and Marine Transport, Housing and Utilities. One road, sixty kilometres in length, is an agricultural route in Al Shatti municipality, while the other stretches 360 kilometres from Sebha to the town of Waddan. The latter is a key section of the 650 kilometres route extending from Abu Grein, on the coast road near Misrata, south through the Sahara to Sebha. Work on the new roads, which cost \$41.8 million, has been under way since April 1980.

The Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan calls for the construction of 4,100 kilometres of new roads, and in addition the completion of 2,400 kilometres in projects carried over from the 1976-80 plan. Development spending on transport and communications as a whole in the 1981-85 period has been set at LD 2.1 billion, of which a large proportion is earmarked for road schemes.

CSO: 4500/110

DECEMBER STATISTICS ON FOREIGN RESIDENTS GIVEN

Tripoli AL-MUNTIJUN in Arabic 19 Feb 83 p 10

[Text] The General Administration for Passports and Nationality has reported the number of brother Arabs and foreigners residing in the Jamahiriyah as of 31 Dec 1982.

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Number</u>
Arab Republic of Egypt	178332
Tunisia	85942
Iraq	1054
Morocco	2691
Pakistan	24698
India	24171
Malta	1447
Greece	2373
Germany	5718
Russia	6926
Portugal	1575
Canada	1016
Syria	25803
Palestine	12221
Sudan	18140
Ghana	1051
Turkey	48274
Thailand	14391
France	2802
Italy	15739
Britain	10831
Bulgaria	8824
Romania	19087
America	2632
Algeria	5412
Lebanon	4297
Jordan	9357
Chad	2748
Korea	18671
Phillipines	7687

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Number</u>
Yugoslavia	13531
Ireland	1054
Czechoslovakia	2531
Hungary	1725
Poland	10738
Bangladesh	7720

CSO: 4504/216

BRIEFS

METHANOL PLANT--The 1st methanol plant in Mersa Brega has achieved the largest output last year yielding 352899 metric tons. The national company for petrochemicals in Brega said this quantity has exceeded the production capacity of the plant since operation and reached 106.64 percent of the nominal designed capacity. [Text] [Valletta JAMAHIRIYA MAIL in English 12 Feb 83 p 12]

MISSILE STRIKE CRAFT DELIVERED--The Beir Alkrarim 534, seventh of 10 Combattante 11G missile strike craft ordered by Libya from CMN (France) was handed over on December 17, 1982. She had been launched on June 23, 1981, after being laid down on March 11, 1980. The Beir Alkrarim weighs 311 tonnes in service, is 49m overall length, 7.10m at the waterline and has a draught of 2m. Propulsion is by four MTU diesel engines, type MD-20-V538TB91, developing 18,000 hp and driving four propellers for a top speed of 39 knots at 284 tonnes displacement. Range is 1 600 nm at 15 knots. She is armed with an Oto Melara (Italy) 76/62 Compact gun forward and a Bofors-Breda 40 mm twin gun aft; four Otomat (Italy-France) MK 1 Clio surface-to-surface missile launchers. Electronic systems include a Crypto system, a Thomson CSF (France) Triton 2-MTI radar; a Thomson-CSF Vega 11-53 fire control; a Thomson-CSF Castor radar; two CSEE (France) Panda optical fire directors; Thomson-CSF ECM and E. Lacroix (France) decoys, Crew is 19 officers and eight seamen. [Text] [Paris AFRICAN DEFENSE in English No 30, Feb 83 p 6]

BRAZIL OFFERS AIRCRAFT DEAL--Brazil's state aircraft manufacturer Embraer says Libya is interested in the Xingu and in the maritime reconnaissance version of the Bandeirante, a larger turboprop. Both aircraft cost about \$1.5 million. Libya has also shown interest in a new version of the Tucano a two-seat light aircraft trainer, on which Embraer will start production in 1984. The Brazilian firm has denied a report that a Libya team headed by chief of the air force command Awad Idris was in Brazil to negotiate the deal. The Gazeta says Libya wants to pay for the aircraft in oil because of its present financial difficulties. Brazil, whose oil accounts for half its total import bill, has previously shown interest in such barter deals. [Text] [Paris AFRICAN DEFENSE in English No 30, Feb 83 p 6]

BRITISH CONTRACTS FOR AGOCO--THE BRITISH firm Capper Neill International has begun work on a \$3 million contract to automate facilities at the Tobruk tank farm and oil terminal of the Jamahiriya's Arabian Gulf Oil Company. It is the firm's third order at the site since it won a \$15 million award in 1980 to extend storage capacity. Capper Neill International hopes that work will be completed by March on a \$6 million turnkey contract to repair and refurbish existing tanks at Tobruk. The British firm's workforce in Libya includes twenty Britons and fifty Indians. In another award to Britain associated with AGOCO, the UK firm of Gent has an order from South Korea's Daewoo Corporation for a fire system for the new AGOCO building under construction in Benghazi. Gent has also won an order to supply 450 clocks for the city's Gar Younis University, and the two contracts are together worth \$66,000. [Text] [London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 33, Feb 83 p 18]

SEA LINK TO ITALY--ON 16TH December the Italian state shipping line Tirrenia di Navigazione resumed a regular roll-on, roll-off service from Italian ports to the Libyan capital Tripoli. The 6,500 dwt Staffeta Mediterranea sails every eighteen days from Triest and Bari and Genoa and Naples. The vessel serves the Sicilian port of Catania every nine days. [Text] [London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 33, Feb 83 p 19]

ATHENS FIRM MAPS URBAN SCHEMES--THE JAMAHIRIYA'S Utilities Secretariat has appointed Athens-based Doxiades Associated International Company to prepare maps and plans for urban schemes in several municipalities, mostly in the eastern part of the country. The West German firm Hansa Luftbild has a sub-contract for aerial photography. Completion of the work is scheduled for mid-1984. Doxiades has worked in Libya for about fifteen years. Its current projects include the supervision of the construction by three Italian firms of 27 warehouses throughout the Jamahiriya, and a four-year old regional planning contract covering the Tobruk and Derna municipalities, which are included in the area covered by the latest award. [Text] [London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 33, Feb 83 p 19]

CSO: 4500/110

EFFECTS OF DROUGHT EXAMINED

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3419, 21 Feb 83 pp 457-459

[Article by Howard Schissel]

[Text]

"WHEN I was a student at Boutilimit in 1953," remarked Mogdad Ould Dahane, Director of Transports for the Commission of Food Security, "we welcomed General de Gaulle at this fort which was surrounded by a forest and agricultural plots." In February 1983 the scene was radically different. The old French fort built in *Beau Geste* style was in ruins and the surrounding countryside seemed desolated.

Boutilimit, the capital of the Trarza region some 200 kilometres south-east of Nouakchott, was once a thriving trading centre and the springboard for the French colonial conquest of Mauritania. Today it is a sleepy overgrown village whose market place displays sparse goods for sale, even by Mauritanian standards. Even if the town has mushroomed over the past 15 years due to the rural exodus caused by the ruin of the pastoral economy, this growth has coincided with a massive impoverishment of its inhabitants. Boutilimit's evolution is characteristic of all other urban centres in the country.

Mauritania was certainly one of the hardest hit of the Sahel states by the drought of the 1970s, with massive loss of cattle and crops. Now the renewed drought of 1982-83 is playing havoc with the parlous economy and engendering new suffering for most of the country's 1.6 million people. To make things worse, the lack of rain could not have come at a less opportune time for the herds, the key resource for the population in the rural areas.

Even at the best of times, it is not easy for the rural population to eke out a meagre living from the land. Two-thirds of Mauritania's 108 million hectare territory is covered by the desert, with only the land situated south of the line stretching from Nouakchott to Tidjikia receiving more than the minimum 150 millimetres of rain a year necessary to sustain basic agriculture and raise cattle. According to Khan Hadya, Director for the Protection of Nature at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mauritania has only 15 million hectares of land which is totally non-desertic and of this total some 14 million hectares are presently menaced by the southward advance of the Sahara.

Having travelled to the hinterland with a mission of the Commission for Food Security, I was able to witness directly the effects of the Sahara's onslaught. In a traditional grazing area like the Trarza region, trees were literally suffocated by advancing sand dunes and pastureland was dried out. Another example: over the past decade some two-thirds of the rugged acacia trees (producing gum arabic) within a hundred kilometres of the Mauritanian bank of the Senegal River have disappeared. Entire regions around Boghé, R'Kiz, Tamchaket and Kiffa have been deprived of their grass cover. This situation, stresses Khan Hayda, only exacerbates sandstorms and the further deterioration of the vegetal environment.

Sandstorms are common in Mauritania, but never have they been as bedevilling as in 1982-83. In Nouakchott, some houses are being gradually covered over by blowing sand. The trans-Mauritanian highway is covered over in countless spots by sand dunes. Bulldozers bravely try to clear a path through the dunes, but the forces of nature are by far superior to the resources of man. During the ten days I recently spent in Nouakchott it was practically continually twilight, as the sand in the air covered the sun. Because of low visibility over the last two months more international flights have been cancelled than have landed at Nouakchott airport. The sand in the air also threatens the health of the population, more than half of whom live in flimsy shacks or motley tents.

After a satisfactory growing season in 1981-82 during which Mauritania produced 78,000 tonnes of diverse grains (mainly millet, sorghum, rice and maize), 49,400 tonnes of meat and 2,500 tonnes of milk, the dearth of rainfall during the 1982 *hivernage* has provoked widespread desolation. According to the region concerned, rainfall was down on an average of 40 to 80 per cent. Only the Hodh Chargi, Hodh Gharbi and Guidimaka areas received satisfactory rainfall. Even when the plants started to grow a new menace arrived: hordes of voracious grasshoppers. It is estimated that up to 90 per cent of the millet crop and 15 per cent of the crop cultivated under flood recession techniques along the Senegal River valley were destroyed by these pernicious insects. Low rainfall throughout West Africa meant that the annual flood of the Senegal River (its source is in Guinea-Conakry) was the lowest since 1972-73, a particularly parched year. This has resulted in a sharp drop in the amount of land planted in flooded depressions: from 37,000 hectares in 1981-82 to only 12,000 hectares this year. Only rice outputs, thanks to irrigated perimeters, edged upwards to 12,264 tonnes this year, against 7,364 tonnes in 1981-82.

Even in a good year Mauritania cannot cover its own basic food needs. Calculated on the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) scale of 120 kilogrammes of cereal per habitant, Mauritania requires some 130,000 tonnes a year. With only 20,000 tonnes of grain, 20,000 tonnes of meat and 1,225 tonnes of milk, the country's alimentary deficit in 1983 has attained alarming proportions.

In these conditions famine is a spectre haunting Mauritania, as well as several other Sahelian countries, especially Mali and Chad. The international community has already contributed large amounts of food aid, but the extent of the natural calamity is liable to make it insufficient. For long-term food stabilisation needs, USAID has contributed, 10,000 tonnes of wheat, the United Nation's World Food Programme, 8,000 tonnes, Canada 3,800 tonnes, Belgium 1,500 tonnes and France 4,000 tonnes, while to boost security food stocks West Germany has chipped in 3,000 tonnes of wheat and the Common Market another 5,000 tonnes. In special emergency aid for 1983, France has contributed 4,000 tonnes of wheat, Spain 3,500 tonnes, the Common Market 5,000 tonnes and Saudi Arabia 20,000 tonnes. Concerning milk, a vital food for the nomadic population, the total deficit for 1983 is estimated at 17,225 tonnes, after aid contribution. A mere 1,000 tonnes of butter is expected.

Food aid, which is essential in the short-term perspective, has nefarious long-term consequences. Most of the cereals supplied is wheat, a crop which Mauritania is incapable of growing. Thus the population gets used to eating bread and *galettes* (a sort of wheatmeal pancake) and people then find it difficult to go back to traditional millet and sorghum. In many ways, today's food and prepares tomorrow's Third World market for wheat produced by the rural sector of the industrialised economies. Also the free or subsidised distribution of food discourages local farmers who find prices being pulled downwards for their produce. That is why, underlines Captain Moulaye Hachim, Commissioner for Food Security, the government has agreed to gradually diminish the subsidy on food sold by the commission. Thus, from 13 ouguiya a kilo, the price of cereals will rise in the next five years to 22 ouguiya per kilo. The money amassed by the sale of cereals by the commission is placed in a joint account with Western donor nations and the proceeds utilised to finance rural development schemes. In 1979-1980, some 200 million ouguiya was raised through these food sales and in 1982-83 this figure could be doubled.

Yet another negative fallout of food aid is the corruption which it inevitably spawns in government agencies involved in distribution. Bamako already has a quarter of

the monetary-based urban areas, with an acceleration of the accumulation of wealth in the towns. In a report on the "Future of Sahelian Pastoralism in Mauritania," prepared by sociologist Abdel Wedoud Ould Cheikh of the Mauritanian Institute of Scientific Research (IMRS), it is written that "this is only one element in a general crisis characterised by a global erosion which effects the production-trading system as well as the cultural models and social relations which govern the reproduction of Moorish society."

For one, there has been a considerable transfer of cattle from traditional nomads to city-based traders and bureaucrats. In this respect, it is interesting to note that the highest concentration of camels is around Nouakchott, the centre of the state bureaucracy's activities. Most of these animals are fed with imported animal feed.

FAO standards for the *bidonville* dwellers. Measurements taken at the Mother and Child Welfare Centre in the fifth *arrondissement* revealed that 68 per cent of children weigh below World Health Organisation (WHO) standards, and 35.9 per cent weigh less than 60 per cent of WHO standards. The infant mortality rate in the fifth *arrondissement* is 257 per thousand, 52 per cent above the national average of 169 per thousand, itself one of the highest in Africa.

The very basis of the pastoral economy is now in serious jeopardy. The drought has deprived the herds of their usual pastureland. Captain Moulaye Hachim estimates that over half of Mauritania's 1.2 million cattle, seven million sheep and goats and 800,000 camels won't survive until the next rainy season in July unless an emergency aid of 240,000 tonnes of cereals or cattle feed is supplied. Given that priority is accorded to food aid and other Sahelian countries have also sounded the famine toxin, it is highly unlikely that Mauritania will receive more than a minute portion of what it needs to salvage the productive portion of its herds.

This year's drought is also liable to exacerbate the drift from the destitute rural areas to the towns, a phenomenon which has already drastically altered the nature of Mauritanian society. For example, in 1965 83 per cent of the 929,000 population was nomadic, while in 1980 this percentage slid to 25 per cent of Mauritania's 1.4 million inhabitants. The corollary to this exodus has been the ballooning of the towns, specially Nouakchott. The same story holds true for towns like Akjoujt, Rosso, Atar, Zouerate, Kaedi and

Boghé. This shift in population increases the number of mouths to feed and drains the rural area of its manpower potential.

According to a recent study prepared by Serge Theuynck, an architect working for the United Nations Development Programme in Nouakchott, and Mamadou Dia, a Mauritanian sociologist, this massive sedentarisation has meant that vast areas "of spontaneous housing have grown up on the outskirts of the towns where the 'shipwrecked from the desert' are crammed together in conditions of severe hardship . . . The edifice of traditional society is cracking and social change is taking place according to the same master pattern of underdevelopment which all Third World countries suffer whilst at the same time presenting some unique aspects arising from the original conditions specific to Mauritania."

On the most basic level, changes have been introduced into traditional Moorish nomadic society. The 1977 census found that only 17 per cent of the nomads practised nomadism over a distance superior to 200 kilometres a year, and they were mainly concentrated in the north-east and the south-east regions. Semi-nomadism and transhumance have come to predominate. Surprisingly, the statistics from the 1977 census revealed that around 30 per cent of the nomadic population practised some form of agriculture, varying from 7.5 per cent in the Nouadhibou-Inchiri area north of the capital to 37 per cent in the Brakna and 52 per cent in the Gorgol, south-east of Nouakchott.

A long-term phenomenon has been the brutal and steady decline in the price of cattle since 1968. With the nomads having to sell off their herds as they settled in the towns or to slaughter them *en masse* to prevent them from starving to death, supply has far outstripped demand with the ineluctable collapse of the market. This has engendered a further decline in the terms of trade between the pastoral economy and luxury accommodations which the population has derisively labelled the "villas of the drought." If Nouakchott cannot boast the same for the moment (although the *Tevragh Zeina* quarter behind the presidential palace isn't bad), talk of speculation in food aid distribution is rife in the Western diplomatic community.

If Mauritania miraculously avoids widespread famine this year, persistent malnutrition will still be the lot for a good proportion of the population. A recent survey showed that 39 per cent of the families living in the fifth and sixth *arrondissement* in Nouakchott eat only one meal a day. Calory intake falls well below minimum

The cost of maintaining herds belonging to bureaucrats and traders has resulted in a radical alteration in the management of this resource in comparison with the traditional herdsmen. Cattle to nomadic Moors was a livelihood and a source of prestige, while to urban-based "pastoralists" it is another form of enrichment and speculation. The ready and expanding market makes livestock husbandry an extremely lucrative outlet for those lucky enough to be able to purchase at rock bottom prices cattle from destitute nomads.

The exacerbation of the drought this year is likely to further accelerate the disaggregation of the pastoral society and place the mass of harratine in an even more delicate position. A large number have also drifted to the towns in search of employment or joined the armed forces. The activist *El Hor* (Free Man) movement or urban-based education harratine has been pushing the government for bolder reforms — such as the much awaited land reform act — after the abolition of slavery

by President Khouna Ould Heydalla's government in 1980. But with all movement for social progress there are contradictory tendencies. Harratines in Nouakchott told this reporter that they were the real work force of the nation and Mauritania's future lay in their hands. However, when queried about links between harratine intellectuals and rank and file members of the community in the rural areas, leading *El Hor* members admitted that ties were often tenuous.

Nevertheless, the persistent drought in Mauritania has touched off the dynamics of social change. If the drought in Ethiopia largely contributed some years back to the toppling of Emperor Haile Selassie in Ethiopia, it may not necessarily bring a radical government to power in the immediate future in Nouakchott. But in years to come the scene will slowly be set for a basic mutation in the ground rules which have governed Mauritanian politics since independence.

CSO: 4500/103

POLITICAL PARTY REALIGNMENTS DISCUSSED IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE RELAXATION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1368, 21 Jan 83 p 35

[Article by Salih al-Sa'id: "The Morocco Balance Leaning Toward Relaxation"]

[Text] These days the Moroccan man in the street is actively talking about a new relaxation in the political climate, the relative reconciliation between the regime and the socialist opposition and about an expected visit to the palace by Abdelrahim Bouabid, First Secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [SUPE]. This could be the beginning of this relaxation that could result in the release of detained members and leaders of the party and the leaders of the Democratic Labor Confederation, the party's effective labor organization. It could also naturally, result in gaining permission to resume publication of the SUPF's newspapers; AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic and LIBERATION in French. This is with the understanding that this would pave the way for holding legislative elections in a natural climate in a manner which would help the stock of the government.

Although there have been rumors about a meeting between the Moroccan monarch and Abdelrahim Bouabid, the first of its type since Abdelrihim Bouabid was released earlier last year, this has not yet happened nor has any date been set for the legislative elections which were expected to be held this coming March. However, this does not mean that Moroccan street talk has no foundation since all elements of the Moroccan situation and various indicators of political life during the past few weeks point in that direction, particularly after the speech of King Hasan II before the African socialist parties where he stressed democratic choice and the fact that the Kingdom of Morocco was the only African country whose constitution specifically rejected the one party formula. The Moroccan monarch's attention to Abdelwahed Radi, head of the federated parliamentary bloc, was an additional indicator since he asked him about Abdelrahim Bouabid and expressed willingness to meet with him. Bouabid in fact got in touch with the palace and was visited by Ahmed Reda Guedira, a close adviser in the palace. They had a conversation about the current situation and the parameters of the next stage. According to Bouabid sources, Reda Guedira tried to learn the opinion of the socialist leader about current conditions and the latter set forth his point of view, adding: "You know it well." Bouabid was alluding to the measures imposed on the party's press and newspapers and taken against some of its leadership and unionists.

Based on this meetings, it had been expected that these measures would be lifted on the prophet's birthday and then on the anniversary of independence. Now there is talk that this step will be taken shortly before the visit of Francois Mitterrand at the end of January or right after it if there is an intention of separating these actions, as an internal issue, from Mitterrand's visit.

In the meantime, other political elements are intensifying their activities in readiness for the elections through a series of new factors that have emerged during the past year, principally the appearance of a balanced political umbrella which is a rival to all existing forces. After the ruling liberal party split into two parties, the present Prime Minister, Maati Bouabid, popped up working for a holding a new constituent congress for a political party in Casablanca, the name of the party to be the Socialist Labor Party. He extended invitations for this purpose to dozens of independent political personages of various leanings. The name he chose for his party could, at first glance, indicate that his aim is to compete with the Socialist Union for its broad popular base. However, that is not accurate first of all because of the difficulty [of accomplishing that] and because the prime minister's eye is really fixed on two other sources to strengthen his party, the first being the remnants of the National Union of Popular Forces which retains its loyalty to its former leader, Abdullah Brahim, and consequently, the Moroccan Federation of Labor which goes on despite the breach caused by the establishment of the Democratic Labor Confederation, the central union which is stronger--though less vital--and recognized internationally. In this course, Maati Bouabid is basing his calculations on his historical relationship with Abdullah Brahim and al-Mahbub Ben Siddik since he was a follower of their political line when he was picked as minister of justice and then prime minister. The illness of Abdullah Brahim, who is threatened with partial paralysis, will prevent him from continuing to play an effective, independent role in political life.

The second source the elements of which the prime minister wishes to attract is his partners in the administration, that is, the Istiqlal Party, whose popularity has begun to drop within their historic rank and file since they came into the government and took on sensitive ministries which they have not always been successful in running.

The Socialist Labor Party, which will ensure Maati Bouabid a political presence if he is removed from the government, is the only newborn party which Moroccan political circles are watching. There is the Marxist-Leninist 23 March Movement, a secret movement with most of its leaders living abroad until recently, which is preparing in turn to proclaim itself an open political party under the name of the Popular Democratic Labor Organization. This movement was primarily confined to the university until it gradually was transformed abroad into a party entity revolving around the newspaper, 23 MARCH, which was printed and distributed abroad. Unlike the "Forward" organization, the 23 March Movement adopted stances in support of the Moroccan position on the Sahara and this helped its personnel later in returning to Morocco and publishing a monthly newspaper named ANWAL. This new party wants to compete with the (Communist) Progress

and Socialism Party, which is led by 'Ali Ya'tah and publishes the newspaper AL-BAYAN, particularly since this party still has had an unsteady position for many years because of the unclear reformist and conciliatory positions of its historic leader. The 23 March group may succeed in attracting some radical leftwing elements which have begun to be conscious of the [lack of] unity and instability caused by the complicated problems arising from development of the political man in the street in Morocco. The ambitions of these persons do not end here; rather, they are also looking at the left wing of the SUPF, particularly after the expulsion of the radical current from it. It is not out of the question that this new party will be successful in attracting these various quarters, particularly because of the presence of educated and dynamic elements in it.

The SUPF in turn is not immune to the illness of this parallel, rival umbrella. Although the leadership elements who were removed from the party earlier, led by Abderrahman Ben 'Umru, head of the Rabat and Sale branch of the party, have not yet moved toward announcing the formation of an independent party, they have been behaving that way based on their strong presence as a radical current in the regions of Rabat, Beni Mellel, Fes and Casablanca, as well as in the university and the rank and file of the Democratic Labor Confederation. Since the third congress of the SUPF, these elements have been waging a savage campaign against the "democratic" administrative machinery of the party which is led by Mohamed Yazghi.

This party undoubtedly was not and will not be finished with the removal of the leaders of the rejectionist or opposition line. The lack of any formation of an independent political party means continued disputes over legitimacy within the party. This situation is like that of Mohamed Basri who lives in exile and who continues to be a source of misgivings, annoyance and worry to the friends of Abdelrahim Bouabid who are right in their belief that it would be better for them for a rival and independent political party to be established than to have the situation remain in abeyance with choice difficult within the single party. This quick look at the political geography in Morocco is merely a rapid sketch which cannot cover all aspects. However, it confirms that a new, strong dynamic will emerge as soon as the anticipated steps for the relaxation are announced.

8389

CSO: 4504/182

WORK OF MILITARY COMMITTEES REVIEWED

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 24 Dec 82 p 7

[Article by Amal Mina: "This Committee Bears Some Burdens of Development in Country"]

[Text] One of the most attractive features of this committee is the remarkable order of its outer entrance and even its offices. This is not strange, for this is one of the characteristics of discipline in the army. Perhaps this is one of the reasons for the success of this institution in achieving its task, because any recruit is committed, and commitment leads to quality in anything.

This article is about the Military Economic Committee, whose sign is seen by every passer-by on al-Qasd Street. What goes on inside is splendid and great, and only requires more understanding and awareness of its role. The citizens harmonize with the workers in all of its organizations and branches. That is because the proverb says, "One supports what one applauds."

Beginning of Tour

Naturally, it was not easy for us to store the castles of the military, but after numerous attempts, contacts and pursuits, we interviewed some military men and obtained from some others all of the information pertaining to the Military Economic Committee, which a number of Sudanese economists consider an imposing new structure for development. Others have said that it will not accomplish anything, and they are afraid of its monopoly over the public organizations and limited partnership with the private sector. However, others consider it a new field for competition between the public and private sectors, and competition is desirable for excellence in different fields.

As for the workers in the committee, whether military or civilian, they believe that this committee, with all of its potential and its capability resting on the abilities of the members of the People's Armed Forces, will play its role in the next stage in the development and evolution of the Sudanese economy and in guaranteeing its path toward the better. That is because Sudan is one of the few African countries which possesses educated, trained cadres who have proven their high ability domestically and internationally when they have found the climate suitable.

The workers in the committee add that their goals are confined to making use of the surplus human and material capabilities of the armed forces in strengthening and developing national production, in addition to achieving self-sufficiency in all of the requirements of the social and economic life of the members of the People's Armed Forces at the lowest prices and costs, while offering the surplus to the citizens in general at reasonable prices.

Agricultural Aspects

The first military official to whom we spoke was Lt General Tawfiq Salih Abu Kadok, head of the Operations Committee of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces and chairman of the board of the Military Agricultural Organization. His Excellency said that the organization is now managing the 550 feddan al-Baqayr agricultural project, the cooperative project in al-Baqayr, east of the Nile, with 1,500 feddans, in addition to 3,000 feddans including 250 gardens in the al-Rahad agricultural project. In the al-Qadarif region there are 15,000 feddans cultivated mechanically, as well as another parcel in al-Damazin.

The Lt Colonel adds that the organization also purchased the Kafura farm, and its production of dairy products rose to three times its production at the time the organization took over. That is due to making use of 1,000 feddans in eastern al-Baqayr to grow fodder. A project for a fish hatchery is now under study, as well as another project to fatten livestock, and the results of these two projects will appear shortly. The organization is also opening new projects for mechanized farming in the southern region. Also, 10,000 feddans in Dongola and other sections of the northern region will be farmed within an integrated framework, in cooperation with the Egyptian People's Armed Forces.

There are also other goals for this organization. It is concerned with rehabilitation and reclamation of land for farming to fill consumer needs for vegetables, poultry, fruit, dairy products and fish.

Industrial Aspects

Col A. K. Kimawi Yahya al-Zubayr, General Director of the Military Industrial Organization, says that the organization's fields of activity are concentrated in the field of industrial production in general, in addition to its special interest in war industries developed to fill the needs of the army and the regular forces, such as establishing cartridge factories, plants to assemble vehicles, and factories for clothing, household appliances, and others for shaping spare parts and furniture. The organization will also supervise the military printing office. Col Yahya adds that there are several stages of evaluating the need for a number of factories, including the shoe factory, for which a study of economic benefit was prepared by experts. This factory will cover the needs of the members of the People's Armed Forces and the regular forces. In addition, 25 percent of the factory's production will be set aside for children's shoes. There is also a brick factory which has been in existence since 1979, but work then stopped. The organization has prepared a new study for it so that it will be able to begin work to produce

12 million bricks a year, which will help to bring down construction costs and develop architectural style. There are also factories in the planning and study stage in the fields of the manufacture of dynamite and gunpowder, which can make use of cotton fluff in the manufacturing process. This helps to fill the country's need for supplies to be used in excavation work, projects using cement, and roads, in addition to the needs of the armed forces. There are also studies to establish industries in the spare part field which would help to cover the needs of the army and public and private factories.

Field of Banking and Insurance

The Military Organization for Insurance and Banks is one of the organizations under the authority. One of its goals is to encourage savings, investment and insurance. It was established in order to exploit the income of the individuals of the People's Armed Forces and the income of the Military Economic Authority and its various organizations and companies. Among the goals of this organization is the establishment of banks working in diverse fields to invest and develop the fiscal resources of the members of the People's Forces, the authority and its organizations and companies belonging to it. It is also working to encourage investment for the purpose of achieving the goals of the national or regional plans in the fields of economic and social development, especially in the fields of agriculture, industry, housing, transportation and services, provided that they rely on fields which aid in self-sufficiency. This is in addition to establishing an investment company to carry out all of the development finance operations. In this regard, it may act as agent or through regional branches or agencies. Also among its purposes is to establish insurance organizations to cover all fields of insurance.

Transportation Field

Col Asamah 'Uthman Salih, director of the Military Organizations for Transportation, says that among the achievements of this organization are the big trucks which traverse the capital now to transport citizens to various areas. He adds that there are more buses which will be put into service to end the transportation crisis. The organization needs more discipline among the citizens in using the bus and in getting on and off so that all citizens have easy access to the system.

The organization is particularly involved in purchasing and leasing cars, trucks and ships of various types and moving and transporting goods and passengers within and beyond the region, by itself or in cooperation with other organizations. This is in addition to establishing and administering repair shops and training other technical cadres in this field to serve the authority and state facilities.

Medical Services

Lt Gen Dr 'Abd-al-Salam Salih 'Isa works in the Military Organization for Medical Services. This organization will take over the buildings, apparatus and machinery of the Production Unit for Medicine in the Medical Service, and also the building of the al-Wafa' wing. In general, its purposes are to participate in the field of health services and education in order to develop, advance and exploit it in a way which takes into account striking a balance between covering the needs of the members of the People's Armed Forces and the citizens in general. Through it, it will be possible to establish health and treatment facilities of various levels at military installations on a regional scale and to offer all medical services, whether in outpatient clinics, in military hospitals, or in the wings, units, or hospitals of the Military Economic Organization. Another of its missions is to produce medicine of all types, whether that is through companies belonging to the organization or by participating in companies with others within Sudan or outside it, as well as setting the policies necessary to market those products.

Commercial Field

Chairman of the Board of the Commercial Military Organization is al-Zubayr Rajab Muhammad al-'um. This organization was established to pursue commercial activity of all kinds in Sudan and abroad to import, export, make purchases, provide guidance, encourage marketing operations, and fill the needs of the People's Armed Forces for supplies and equipment.

In addition, the organization must draw up and implement the necessary marketing policy, including the organization's retail products and those of the companies belonging to it. It will also supervise the everyday operation of existing and planned military consumer facilities. The organization is also working to supply retail organizations and companies with all of the machinery, tools, and supplies which they need to help them to achieve their goals. It is also working to improve and develop storage methods and equip the warehouses by modern scientific methods, in addition to training technical personnel in this field.

Housing Field

In general, the Military Organization for Housing and Reconstruction, whose board of directors is chaired by Lt Gen Fathi 'Umar Abu-al-Hasan, Minister of State for Defense, is in charge of work in the field of construction and reconstruction, with the aim of helping the members of the People's Armed Forces to settle and insure their future and their families by building homes and housing collectives for them at reasonable prices, supplying tools, equipment and construction supplies to the People's Armed Forces and its working members, and putting their abilities to work building roads, bridges, villages and collectives. In addition, it provides local building supplies at suitable prices and takes charge of providing qualified technical personnel, whether they are members of the People's Armed Forces or civilians.

Finally

This is an attempt to embark upon an explanation of the Military Economic Committee. The workers do not want to brag about their work and their accomplishments, but we felt we had to tell the citizens what is being done in this committee. Its central board of directors is headed by Ja'far Muhammad Nimeiri, Minister of Defense and commander-in-chief of the People's Armed Forces. Its general director is Maj Gen A. H. 'Umar Babakr Zaruq. The membership of the central board of directors includes the deputy general director, the legal consultant and advisor, and the secretary of the central board of directors, in addition to the chairmen of the board and the directors of the subsidiary organizations.

7587

CSO: 4504/154

DEBATE ON DRAFT OF 1983 MINISTRY OF INTERIOR BUDGET

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 22 Dec 82 p 4

[Report by B. Ben Maatouk and R. Senoussi on comments by deputies during debate on draft budget for the Ministry of the Interior; date and place not given: "Public Safety and Government Decentralization Focus of Debate"]

[Text] Numerous speeches were to mark the debate by the Chamber of Deputies representatives around the draft budget for the Ministry of the Interior. Fifty-four deputies were registered during the debate that ensued.

Among the questions that were repeatedly raised were public safety in the face of rising delinquency and criminality, development of the territory, administrative apportionment -- with the establishment of new delegations and municipalities -- administrative decentralization, to serve the needs of the citizens and the regions.

In a unanimous gesture, the nation's deputies all paid tribute to the members of the police force, who, often in peril of their lives, watch over the safety and the protection of the public. Several speakers expressed concern that the restrictions on expenditures -- assumed by all departments without distinction for 1983 -- would result in a reduction of the level of security expected by taxpayers in the light of the renewed outbreak of violence, particularly in the capital.

The behavior of the police officers must be irreproachable toward criminals, the deputies also stated, and also concerned themselves with the improvement of the material conditions for police officers as well as measures for better protecting them in the fight against crime.

Lastly, several of the nation's representatives asked the minister of the interior to reserve for them, in connection with the debates, a special session to debate what can be done to assure the safety of the public in terms of the fight against delinquency and crime, which are becoming alarmingly extensive.

Khélifa Abid:

"Relax relations between public and police officer"

The speaker began by approaching the relations of police officers with the public, speaking in particular of the conditions under which preventive detention occurs.

In this connection, he mentioned certain attitudes that characterize the conduct of certain domestic police force officers, pointing out the need to correct certain failings and establish relations of mutual respect within the framework of the Moslem ethic and national solidarity.

Mahmoud Ben Hassine:

"Strengthen the resources available to police officers"

This deputy took pleasure in paying tribute to the services rendered the nation as a whole by the officers of the Ministry of the Interior. He recommended that care be taken to improve the means placed at the disposal of the police force to strengthen the security and the protection of the public.

Mohamed Kraïm Mastouri

"Hasten completion of decentralization"

He saluted the role of Ministry of the Interior officers in domestic and foreign security. Budgetary austerity must not have repercussions in the form of lessening of the fight against delinquency and crime, the speaker specified, stressing that the department had to be able to keep up its activity as much as required by the needs of the public in terms of security.

Along these lines, he was pleased to note the efficiency and speed of the police force in connection with certain crimes that had recently occurred, in particular at the time of the murder of a National Guard officer in Kabaria. Not a week passes when we do not have to deplore the sacrifice of a police officer in the service of his fellow-citizens, he was to declare before suggesting that a message of congratulation be sent by the Chamber of Deputies to the officers of the Ministry of the Interior.

In conclusion, he hoped that the effects of decentralization would increasingly meet the needs of the public.

Kacem Azzak:

"Ease the return to society of first-time delinquents"

He expressed pleasure that legal criminal age has been raised to 18 years, pointing out the beneficial side-effects that rehabilitation is sure to have on first-time delinquents to ease their return to society.

Mohamed Chédli Neïfer:

"Deal gently with youths"

He began by expressing his gratitude to all those who serve public security and protection within the Ministry of the Interior.

The speaker earnestly hoped that the fight against crime will be strengthened so that the public may be reassured. However, he observed, the police officers must not abandon an attitude compatible with the role of defender of the law, stressing that relations with youths in particular must be improved by a less traumatic treatment.

Belgacem Moutii:
"Develop the frontier areas"

The speaker was concerned about the distribution of credits in connection with development of the regions, expressing the hope that it would be done with a view to the correction of regional imbalance. With this in mind, he recommended that more resources be set aside for the frontier areas, which constitute, he added, one of the essential aspects of our security.

Salem Abdelmajid:
"Improve preventive detention conditions"

He recommended that small municipalities be better assisted. In connection with convicts under common law, the speaker hoped that measures could be introduced to make their return to society easier, before drawing attention to the need to improve the interior of the penitentiary environment.

In addition, the deputy also brought up the issue of preventive detention, and treatment compatible with human rights as concerns prisoners.

Regarding the BOP [Public Order Brigade], he suggested limiting recourse to it strictly to the circumstances requiring it, before expressing the wish that certificate 3 would no longer be systematically requested from job-seekers, to make it easier to give young offenders a second chance.

Mohamed Slimi:
"Status of Ministry of the Interior officers"

The evolution of people depends closely upon their security, he was to point out before paying tribute to the services rendered the community by the officers of the Ministry of the Interior.

In addition, he expressed the hope that the promulgation of the status of officers of the Ministry of the Interior would occur soon, before recommending that the OMDAS [expansion unknown] corps be better equipped to meet the needs of those under its administration.

Mohamed Ben Aleya:
"Develop Civil Defense resources"

He called for observation of a scientific effort to take into account all possible data before proceeding to an administrative reapportionment, with the active participation of regional supervisory personnel.

The speaker recommended developing the resources made available to Civil Defense, in particular in the forest areas of the North of Tunisia, to increase their effectiveness in the event of disaster.

Salah Lahmar:

"Meet the needs of the public better"

The safety of citizens, the rise of violence with delinquency and crime were brought up by the deputy, who asked that the dangers to which police personnel are exposed in their work be taken into consideration.

Municipalities and OMDAS, he was to state, must be able to develop to respond to the growing needs of those under their administration.

Rachid Mbarek:

"Preserve citizens' security "

The representative essentially based his speech on the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents, suggesting the establishment of a specific fund to support this action.

As for security, he recommends making sure that it is strengthened to preserve the tranquillity of the citizens and of tourists visiting our country, while preserving its distinguished image.

Belgacem Hamadi:

"Help small municipalities"

This deputy suggested that the Governorate Council be elected, before recommending that the situation of temporary workers in the governorates is legalized.

With respect to the ONAS [National Public Sanitation Office], the speaker hoped that it would give more assistance to the small municipalities. The mining areas, he was to add, should be able to have available better equipped and stronger Civil Defense.

Concerning the rise of violence and crime, he appealed for greater attention to be paid to them and appropriate means for combating them to be set aside.

Ali Tounsi:

"Strengthen the authority of the state"

At the beginning of his speech, the deputy expressed his pleasure in the work undertaken so far by the Ministry of the Interior to assure the safety of the public. Nevertheless, Mr Tounsi made certain proposals concerning the ministry's budget and the measures implemented for its proper operation.

At issue, for example, is the matter of increasing National Security officers' salaries and making available to them adequate means of transportation, both in the capital and in the interior of the country. That is the sort of thing that would strengthen the authority of the state.

The municipality, in the deputy's opinion, has an undeniable role in development. In this connection it would be desirable to take a closer look at the

material resources granted to the municipality, both for the payment of its employees and for the completion of certain projects. And that cannot be put off indefinitely. The credit banks of local communities ought also to be strengthened. The deputy also asked for services to citizens to be increased.

Tijani Lassoued:

"Reduce the risks run by Security officers"

After praising the efforts of the ministry, Tijani Lassoued insisted on calling attention to a certain number of points. For a start, he brought up a problem involving the Security officers. The latter, the deputy feels, run definite risks in the performance of their duties. He wondered whether the ministry was planning to make resources available to them so that they can defend themselves.

Boujemaâ El Hamdi:

"Pay tribute to the Security officers"

Succeeding Mr Lassoued, Mr El Hamdi also praised the merits of the Ministry of the Interior. In addition, he proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Security officers for the role that they play in our country, especially during the recent floods.

Taking up another aspect, the deputy called for the strengthening of manpower in the local communities and providing them with adequate material resources.

Mohamed Hechmi Gouadria:

"Improve material conditions for city officers"

After paying tribute to the efforts made by the ministry, the deputy insisted on presenting certain proposals.

Decentralization, he stated, cannot be successfully carried out until the material resources at the ministry's disposal are strengthened. Now, this department disposes of very limited resources.

He also called for improvement in the material conditions of municipal officers, so that they can do their work properly. Moreover, a better administrative apportionment in the center and southern regions in particular, would be the basis for a revision of the situation of the municipalities.

Mohamed El Kéfi El Amri:

"Fight rural exodus"

The fight against the flight from the countryside requires the strengthening of public safety stations, stated Mr El Amri. He also called for revision of the status of Security officers.

Concerning the status of prisoners, the deputy hopes that it will be revised to permit better integration of the latter into society.

Mohamed Lassoued:

"Give the police officers adequate resources to fight crime"

The deputy asked for police officers to be supplied with the necessary means to combat crime. Indeed, it is by no means a matter of raids, because it is better to prevent than to cure, and that by fighting crime at its origin. A new style of working will also have to be adopted within communities.

Mhedheb Chihaoui:

"Assure better balance among the regions"

The community councils must be given the power of decision within the regions. That is of a nature to strengthen regional development action, Mr Chihaoui considered. A better balance must also be assured among the various regions of the country, while increasing the efficiency of the control services.

He also proposed the establishment of specialized tax collecting stations at the community level.

Moncef Ben Mosbah:

"Economic abuses must be denounced"

At the beginning of his speech, the deputy asked for a strengthening of the Civil Defense services.

He also considered that budgetary restriction for this department is excessive.

As for the decentralization action, it can only be successfully carried out if the municipal councils are given broader powers.

In addition, he denounced the economic abuses committed by certain officials, particularly as concerns embezzlement.

Belgacem Manita:

"Extend the powers of the Municipal Councils"

Mr Manita asked for a strengthening of the role of municipal councils by the broadening of their powers, for example, by letting them carry out the development programs.

Moncef El Ouati:

"It is not enough to pursue delinquents"

Recognizing the difficulty that hinders the action of this ministry, particularly as concerns the fight against crime, Mr El Ouati stated that it is not enough to pursue delinquents. Indeed, adequate solutions must be found and an effort made to change attitudes.

He also wondered about the project for the establishment of a fund for urban development.

Returning to the problem of delinquency, Mr El Ouati stated that the fight against violence does not depend only upon the ministry, but also upon the family and the education system. Certificate 3 must incidentally not be a handicap in the return to society of a prisoner, especially in the case of small offenses.

Moncef Foudhaïli:

"Settle the public by strengthening the role of frontier municipalities"

The deputy stated that it is necessary to strengthen municipalities' manpower so that they can deal with the demographic boom.

Mr Foudhaïli also proposed strengthening the role of the frontier municipalities to enable the public to settle in one place more easily. To do this, it would be desirable to assure adequate material conditions, particularly as concerns urban development.

Belgacem Dabcha:

"Subdivide the large governorates"

Like his predecessors, Mr Dabcha called for the strengthening of the Security system and the granting of powers of decision to the governorate council.

In addition, the public must be brought closer to the administration, and the big governorates should be subdivided.

Salah Zoghlami:

"Strengthen the training of police officers"

The regional administration has an important role to play, stated Mr Zoghlami, but he deplores that regional planning has been deferred until the 8th Plan, while there exist competent supervisory personnel.

Thought should be taken now about setting up plans at the regional level and strengthening the power of the government.

In addition, the deputy requested that more thought be given to the training of police officers, and not just to increasing their numbers.

Azzouz Rbaï:

"Police officers must be irreproachable"

The Ministry of the Interior has an undeniable social and political responsibility, stated Mr Rbaï. Security officers must therefore be irreproachable and vigilant, and at the same time respectful of citizens. He nevertheless denounced the use of violent measures. The police officer must be the symbol of the country's development.

12149

CSO: 4519/113

TUNISIA

AUTOMOBILE RADIATOR FACTORY PLANNED FOR GAFSA

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 20 Dec 82 p 9

[Article by M. Marouki: "A Radiator Factory at Gafsa"]

[Text] In its development efforts, Tunisia is increasingly hoping to promote industry, and especially automobile electronic and mechanics and related industries in which it is lagging.

During a seminar on the 6th Plan bringing together many different partners, the officials had specified the goals, including the development of the automobile and utility vehicles sector. To this end, they stated, the specialized subcontracting industry will be a great resource, for we spend a large amount of foreign currency for importing spare parts.

It is into this framework that fit the objectives of the new company, "The radiator," which has just been established. Thus a promotional prospectus states that this industrial plant to be established at Gafsa will make it possible to meet the radiator needs of the Tunisian market, as regards radiator shells spare parts for radiators, for tourist and industrial vehicles.

In addition, a portion of this company's output (about 35 percent) will be exported to France, more precisely, to the Renault company and within the framework of compensation.

Moreover, as a result of the trade assistance of the French Chausson company, there is a plan to develop export of another portion of the output to certain countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Contracts providing for the establishment of this radiator company will be signed today between BDET [Economic Development bank of Tunisia], the promoter of the project, Mr Ben Khélifa, and the STIA [Tunisian Automobile Industry Company], on the one hand, and the Renault industrial vehicles state company and the Chausson company on the other.

The investment agreed to, namely 2.1 million dinars, will make it possible to create 73 jobs and an annual output of 20,000 radiators and 15,000 radiator shells. However, the real output capacity may exceed 60,000 units which could be used for various makes of light cars as well as industrial vehicles (Peugeot, Renault, Isuzu, Fiat, OM, etcetera).

Creation then, for the first stage, of 73 jobs, implantation outside the industrial areas of the big cities, but at Gafsa, which amounts to a first step in the industrialization of this disadvantaged region, participation in a genuine foreign currency economy.... But this company also contributes to the improvement in the rate of industrial integration (100 percent for the beams and 60 to 75 percent for the radiators).

It is by increasing the number of such efforts and especially by encouraging them that our industry would be developed and precisely in this way our economy's balance would be improved, particularly as concerns the balance of trade.

12149

CSO: 4519/113

TUNISIA

BRIEFS

FLOODS AFFECT DATE HARVEST--Mohamed Hafsa, governor of Kebili, presided on Wednesday over the fourth ordinary session of the governorate council for the 1982 financial year. The governor announced, at the beginning of the meeting, that President Bourguiba's health was improving, and in the name of all the citizens of Kebili, he wished him a prompt recovery so that he could continue the country's progress toward development. Mr Hafsa then presented to the participants an account of the general situation in the governorate as a result of the damage caused by the recent floods, which affected in particular the agricultural sector and the basic infrastructure, pointing out especially that the date harvest had been affected in a range of 25 to 70 percent, and that damage in the various sectors are estimated at 6 million dinars. In this connection, the governor praised the solicitude shown by the head of state to this region in sending two members of the government to take note of the extent of the damage, and stressed the moral support and material aid given by Mrs Wassila Bourguiba. Mr Hafsa announced the project for the development of 90 hectares at Segui and the planting of 10,000 pistachio nut trees. The governor also announced the execution shortly of a project for the construction of 600 housing units and the establishment of 20 new OMDAS [expansion unknown] in the region. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 20 Dec 82 p 8] 12149

CSO: 4519/113

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SEPHARDIC JEWS IN ISRAEL DESCRIBED

TA091410 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1730 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] Over a month has passed since the tragic event in the Tel Aviv quarter of Kfar Shalem which to this day arouses bitterness and anger among vast sectors of the public. Such events exacerbate interfactional tension in Israel. The tragedy began when the Yehoshu'a family, who had been living under terrible crowded conditions in their house in Kfar Shalem, built a little room--for the purpose of somewhat easing their suffocating living conditions--without a license from the municipality.

The mayor of Tel Aviv immediately issued an administrative destruction order and instructed the police to carry it out. When the police, the border police and municipality personnel arrived at the house, the father of the family, 82-year-old Yisra'el Yehoshu'a, asked the municipal official in charge: Just wait a little bit, the order is on its way here, my son has just called from the court to tell me about it. However, the official refused to wait and ordered the bulldozer to go ahead. Then, one of old Yehoshu'a's sons asked the policeman in charge to stop the bulldozer and when the latter refused another son, Shim'on, who had been recently released from the IDF, climbed on the roof and fired a warning shot in the air to stop the bulldozer. At that point, the policeman also fired his gun and the first bullet hit Shim'on in the head and he died on the spot.

It is a known fact that there are laws in Israel which empower mayors and local councils with administrative jurisdiction which is applied only to Oriental inhabitants in the suburbs. The order whose implementation caused the death of Yehoshu'a was issued based on one of those laws.

Not only is the Arab population the victim of discrimination but also Oriental Israelis who are generally used in Israel as cannon fodder or cheap labor. The discrimination against Oriental Israelis is many-sided and comprehensive.

According to official statistics, over 25 percent of the Oriental Israelis live under the poverty line. The per capita income of these families has dropped during Prime Minister Menahem Begin's term in power and it currently amounts to 47 percent of the income of families of European and North American extraction. Oriental youths have by and large no real chance of getting an education, it is simply not within their reach. The number of Oriental children in high schools does not even reach 30 percent of the general number of students and is less than 15 percent in the universities.

The French magazine LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE points out in this context that although 65 percent of Israelis are of Sephardic extraction their representation in the political and economic top echelon of the country is only 20 percent. For example, only 27 Knesset members are of Sephardic extraction as opposed to 88 Knesset members of Ashkenazi origin. Only 3 percent of senior Israeli officials are of Oriental extraction. This is a deliberate policy of the ruling circles in Israel. This policy is aimed at blocking the way of Sephardic Jews to important posts in the civil service, the army, in scientific institutions and so on.

According to the French journal (VIE OUVRIER) Sephardic Israelis constitute a reserve of cheap labor for the ruling class but nothing more than that. Such a situation increases the resistance movement among Sephardic factions in Israel. The possibility should not be ruled out that it might ultimately lead to a political explosion among second-class Israelis.

CSO: 4423/91

SEIZED WEST BANK LANDS SAID NOT STATE LANDS

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 82 p 7

[Article by Amnon Rubenstein: "Beyond the Green Line"]

[Text] The expansion of urban settlements beyond the Green Line has become a fait accompli: cheap housing, a short distance from the large urban centers, naturally attract Israelis who in this way can achieve housing of the highest standard for the lowest prices. We are not talking about settlements, but bedroom suburbs — "residency" in the official language — close to the place of work and offering many Israelis the possibility of leaving crowded cities and living in nice neighborhoods. Bringing Jews to Judea and Samaria in this way is easy and effective, for it requires no sacrifice, but on the contrary: the attraction is the space and standard of living for the individual. It is enough to read the advertisements which seduce the customers to realize this. If we add to this advertisements which promise roads which skirt Arab villages — then the attraction is increased sevenfold.

From the point of view of members of the Greater Land of Israel movement and the government, this is a great success, and the prospect of moving tens of thousands of Jews over the Green Line is more perceptible than ever. The place of the trickle of settlements and outposts is now taken by a great stream of Israelis whose motivation is not ideological but comfort seeking. The attraction is great, and since all sectors of the economy — first and foremost the Histadrut economy — are partners in the enterprise, the transition to new residency is not limited to Israelis having a certain philosophy. Moreover, from the point of view of the government, the more this stream increases, and the more the number of Jews beyond the Green Line grows, so will support increase for the line which will seek a greater land of Israel and which will oppose any concessions; a man living in Judea and Samaria will naturally tend to defend his private property.

But are we talking about private property? Beyond the Green Line is occupied territory, where at least theoretically there prevails a military administration and Jordanian law. In recent years, there have been many disturbances in this legal situation, and there have been many law suits between Jewish-Israelis and local Arabs in the occupied territories. Even the word "occupied" has been erased from the law books. But the legal status of the territories has not changed, and there is still no government ready or willing to impose Israeli law there.

Because of this, the government has not expropriated lands for the residents according to law, for there is no Israeli law which enables the expropriation of that territory. Most of the activities in lands are carried out by the military administration, which holds the administration of "lands of the state" even if they are not lands of the state of Israel, for Israel has not imposed its laws on the territories, and it has not nationalized the lands of the Jordanian government. By virtue of international law, a military administration was set up, and it holds temporary title to the lands. This conception — in reference to privately owned lands — must be carried out for military purposes; but in any event, even in reference to lands of the Jordanian government, the conception does not pretend to transfer ownership of even unregistered land to the state of Israel.

We are thus talking about a temporary seizure, which does not involve any deed document. On the strength of this temporary nature, the high court justified the seizure of private lands, but that is the nature of every seizure, wherever it may occur, even with what we call "state lands" which were never expropriated, were never transferred, and for which no compensation was ever paid.

There are those who say — even though the matter is not certain — that the activity of the Israeli government is in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention, which was accepted by Israel and to which it is a signatory. Paragraph 49 of the convention says that "the occupying power shall not transfer parts of its civilian population to the territory which it has occupied". When Israel ratified the convention, the government took it seriously. The special General Staff order number 33.0133 requires soldiers of the IDF to adhere to the convention. Immediately after the Six Day War, the military government issued a decree regarding security orders, and in paragraph 35 it explicitly states that "a military court and a military court administration will uphold the order of the Geneva convention of 12 August 1949 regarding the defense of civilians in time of war(...) and where there is a conflict between this decree and the aforementioned convention, the order of the convention shall prevail".

Moreover, in the early court cases that dealt with what was going on in the territories, the state's counsel agreed to litigate according to the Geneva Convention. But today, all of that is past. Any mention of the convention has been erased from the decrees of the military government, and recently the state's counsel has ceased to be willing to litigate according to the Geneva Convention.

Thus, in fact, the Geneva Convention has ceased to apply to the occupied territories. The official reason is that Israel does not recognize the jurisdiction of the convention because that would mean an indirect recognition of Jordanian sovereignty over Judea and Samaria. But the ingenuousness of this strange claim is pierced by the refusal to apply it to the Gaza Strip, where Egypt does not claim, and never has claimed, sovereignty over that territory.

Regarding this situation, Judge Vitkin, a past member of the high court, has said some sharp and clear words: "...It is error to think ... that the Geneva Convention does not apply to Judea and Samaria. It does apply even though (...) it is not jurisdiction in this court".

In other words, the convention is in effect, but the government refuses to honor its international obligations. According to the government, it is observing the humanitarian requirements of the convention, without imposing it officially. But in this matter Judge Witkin also has his say: "I would not say that the humanitarian requirements of the convention are directed only towards the defense of human life, health, honor, and freedom, and not to the defense of property. Who knows better than us the value of an inheritance."

But even after the Geneva Convention has been erased from law in the territories, there still remains the basic element on the basis of which the military commander maintains his temporary hold on the land of the occupied territory. In a series of decisions, the High Court determined the temporary nature as an essential basis for the legitimacy of that hold. Thus Judge Landau, the one time head of the court, said clear and direct words on this issue:

"The decision to build a permanent settlement, intended from the beginning to be permanent — even beyond the term of the military government in Judea and Samaria — encountered a legal stumbling block which could not be overcome, because the military government cannot create facts for military purposes which are intended to last beyond the military control of that territory".

These words were said regarding the seizure of private lands, but they also apply to the same extent to the seizure of any lands by the military commander. Anyone who reads the foregoing passage and others like it, and compares the words of the judges to the reality in the field, and the advertisements to build a home in Samaria, could laugh or cry, according to his point of view. According to Judge Haim Kohen, there is but one word to describe what is happening to land on the West Bank: "theft".

The building of bedroom suburbs beyond the Green Line will not only occur in occupied territory, subject to the law of military government. It will also occur on land not the property of the government, except in cases where the land is purchased on a private basis from the Arabs. The roads will bypass Arab villages in which non-citizens live, these denied all political rights, who cannot vote or be elected, who are subject to a law different from Israeli law, a law applying by patents and tricks to the Jewish residents of the same region.

I knew well that these considerations will not counter the attraction, and the will to build a house in territory which is not — even under the Likud regime — under the jurisdiction of the state of Israel. But it is worth recording these words, and it is worth knowing that whoever protests this distortion of basic legal concepts is being faithful to the fundamental concepts of a democratic society and the rule of law.

AL-FAJR STAFF, FINANCING ASSESSED

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Dec 82 Weekend Magazine pp 12-13

[Article by Michal Meron: "The Voice of the PLO in Jerusalem"]

[Text] Men dressed in civilian clothing entered the "Jerusalem Office for Journalistic Pieces" and conducted a basic search. On leaving, they took with them among other things, several issues of old newspapers. After a month, the owner of the office, Sam'an Khuri, a 34 year old Jerusalemite, was summoned for interrogation, from which he returned home only after 17 days. He says that no one struck him, no one insulted him during his imprisonment, which he spent alone in a cell. But for two days, he says, they delved well into his memory. From Tuesday at noon until Wednesday at noon, "I was put on my feet, my hands tied behind my back, with a heavy sack on my head. After 24 hours of this standing, I collapsed".

Sam'an Khuri was released after 17 days, after he was judged guilty of and fined for having two issues of AL- HURIYA, the organ of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Shurbaji Zifrish, a professional graphics artist, is limited in his movements in Israel. For a year he has been prohibited from crossing beyond the Green Line. His relatives and friends, who live on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, have not seen him since the decree was issued, and will not see him in the foreseeable future.

Ziad Abu-Ziad, a 42 year old Jerusalem jurist, bought a new car a month ago. He used his car before he had a chance to change the license plates from a yellow number to a blue number. On the order of an officer of the military government, he was jailed for 48 hours, which stretched into 96 hours, which stretched into a week.

Abu-Ziad was held in a small room, unventilated, with two other men, one of whom was a convicted murderer awaiting sentence. For seven days, he left the room only to go to the toilet, once or twice a day. He was forced to eat his meals with his hands (knives and forks are not allowed in detention cells). After heavy pressure from the press and media in Israel, Ziad Abu-Ziad was released, and as of this writing he has not been charged in court.

Ma'amun al-Siyad, a resident of Ramallah, has been confined for two and a half years to his city. He cannot leave Ramallah on the order of the commander of the Central Command, who accused him of membership in the Committee for National Direction.

The common denominator of these four men is that all of them are senior editors of the Arab newspaper AL-FAJR AL-'ARABI ("the Arab dawn") which is published in East Jerusalem. Sam'an Khuri is the editor of the English edition of AL-FAJR, Shurbaji Zifriah is the graphics editor of AL-FAJR in Hebrew, and Ziad Abu-Ziad is the chief editor of the Hebrew edition, and acting editor of the Arabic AL-FAJR. Ziad Abu-Ziad is filling the position of Ma'amun As-Siyad, who has been prevented from the editing of the paper since he was restricted to Ramallah.

The publisher of the paper, Paul Ajluni, an American of Palestinian origin, has been forbidden by the government to enter Israel since he declared, two years ago, that he was acting as advisor to the PLO mission at the UN. In spite of these facts, and harassment, the journalists work at the paper by means of government factors, and in spite of the heaping of difficulty by censorship and the issuance of closure decrees against the paper from time to time, AL-FAJR AL-'ARABI continues to appear regularly.

Recently, there was even added to the Arabic and English editions a third in Hebrew. AL-FAJR operates on a small budget, with primitive printing equipment and a small staff which is used in putting out all of the editions. The Hebrew edition has been a small dream of the AL-FAJR people for a few years, and its purpose is to bring the Palestinian public closer to the Israeli public and to create a bridge between the two sides.

AL-FAJR AL-'ARABI was founded 11 years ago, with the primary purpose of inventing employment for Joe Yusuf Nasser, the brother-in-law of Paul Ajluni. Ajluni had emigrated to America with his family while still a child, and he had done quite well there. His wife's brother, Yusuf Nasser, lived in Jerusalem and had worked in education. Ajluni and his wife wanted to help him leave that field and set himself up in life. So Omar International was set up, and it published the paper. Of course, Yusuf Nasser was appointed as chief editor.

After the first goal was achieved, and the brother from Jerusalem had work, the realization of the second goal began: the publication of a paper which would consistently attack the policy of the Israeli occupation. In its first cycle, AL-FAJR appeared in Arabic as a weekly, and the editor was concerned that upon the appearance of the first issue, all supporters of Jordan in the territories would be sharply attacked, along with those who collaborated with the Israeli military administration and who kept the faith with King Husayn. Among those who were attacked in particular were members of the Ja'abari family of Hebron.

Two years after the first appearance of the paper, on 5 February 1974, Joe Nasser was kidnapped and has not been seen since.

The Israeli police opened an investigation and arrested Yasser Al-Qa'aqi, who confessed to kidnapping Joe Nasser and to delivering him to the Ja'abari family in Hebron. Al-Qa'aqi was convicted and sentenced to 7 years in jail. After partly serving his sentence, Al-Qa'aqi left the country for the U.S. Members of the Ja'abari family were arrested for interrogation, but denied any involvement in the kidnapping and were released. Joe Nasser has still not been found to this day.

Paul Ajluni was not defeated by this attempt to intimidate him. On the contrary, the business man, the owner of a chain of cleaning stores and clothing shops, he decided to change the weekly into a daily, and to continue the struggle started by his brother-in-law, Joe Nasser. Khana Sanyura took Nasser's place as editor responsible for the paper, and Bashir Ba'aruti was appointed executive editor.

With these appointments, there began the communist period of the paper. Between 1974 and 1976, the paper was infiltrated by persons of a communist point of view, and they operated it and determined its policies. In 1976, Ajluni decided that the new line of the paper was not right for him. He closed the paper, and the workers were fired, Bashir Ba'aruti was dismissed, and the paper was reopened. Its policy was to support the PLO, and it followed the line of the Palestinian National Movement.

Khana Sanyura remained the chief editor. The Sanyura family is well known in Jerusalem, because of its famous butcher shop. Khana Sanyura is the nephew of the owner of the butcher shop, he is a Catholic and lives in Ramallah, and is 45 years old. Although Sanyura is the chief editor, the strong man on the paper is undoubtedly Ziad Abu-Ziad, a tall dark man with a sympathetic smile, who is fluent in Hebrew.

Ziad was born in the Azariah neighborhood of Jerusalem, and studied law in Damascus. After the occupation of Jerusalem, he left law and went into education. In 1969 he began to work as a journalist, and as the editor of the paper AL-QUDS. He is married for the second time, and he has eight children. His present wife is a teacher specializing in English language and literature.

Ziad's brother sat in jail for 10 years, having been convicted of membership in Al-Fatah, and Ziad himself was jailed once for two months, charged with membership in a hostile organization, but he was released when he could not be brought to trial. Since then, he was not arrested for years, until last month. Between the two jailings, he was only bothered a few times by the Israeli authorities, who occasionally would summon him for long and tiring interrogations. But today, he fears for his skin, and is careful not to discuss the issue lest he get into trouble.

Ziad Abu-Ziad's style during the long discussions between us, lasting for several nights at the editorial desk of AL-FAJR, is very cautious. He knows that they are lying in wait for him, that they are looking for him. He does not want to give the people of the civil administration or the authorities even the slightest pretext for jailing him again, for calling him in for interrogation, or in the worst case, for closing the paper.

AL-FAJR AL-ARABI is housed at Shechem Road 19, in a small dark alley. People work there day and night, in large half empty rooms where the temperature of the Jerusalem winter freezes the fingers.

Ziad Abu-Ziad is free to talk with me only in the evening, after eight o'clock. In the mornings, he runs to arrange affairs at the Hebrew AL-FAJR. In the afternoons he is working on the Arabic AL-FAJR, where he writes the daily editorial. AL-FAJR AL-ARABI is a daily, the English edition is a weekly, and the Hebrew edition is a bi-weekly which encounters difficulties in distribution (there were no distribution companies which would agree to distribute the Arabic edition). In contrast, the

military censor does not show great interest in the Hebrew edition, which is directed to the Israeli reading public that is already fed by the Israeli press.

In the fourth issue of the Hebrew AL-FAJR, there appeared in the main headline the first and only interview until then which Paul Ajluni conducted with Israeli prisoners. The interview and the pictures, which were published in six columns, aroused great feeling in the country and among the families of the captives. Alongside the interview with the captives there appeared, in a box, a shorter news item: "Gas Explosion Destroyed the Administration Building in Tyre".

After one short and abbreviated informative section, about the losses and the number of persons killed, AL-FAJR adds interpretative words. The writer decides that the heavy cost in loss of life again proves that the security of Israel and the Israeli people is not in Lebanon or any other territory, but in real peace with the Palestinian people.

The Hebrew, like the Arabic and English AL-FAJR is not what one might call a free press. It is a very tendentious press and all those involved in it see their task as a national mission. Their pen is to serve only the Palestinian people.

Ziad Abu-Ziad says: "We see the PLO as our representative, and therefore we support it and its conceptions. We support the creation of a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel. All of Israel's talk about a Palestinian pact is nothing but avoidance and empty talk. What is decisive is what happens in the field. And there are facts in the field which cannot be avoided. There are two peoples. The one possible solution for them is a partition of the country into two peoples. If Israel wants a purely Jewish state, and not a democratic or secular state as we have proposed, then you should be rid of us already. Kill us, because otherwise we will turn you into a bi-national state, which is something you very much do not want.

Ziad Abu-Ziad assures me that in spite of the fact that his paper would be ready to publish other opinions, as long as they are of interest, any article which would reject the establishment of a Palestinian state would find its way to the waste basket. In AL-FAJR they preach freedom of the press, but only up to a certain point.

The expression "freedom of the press" brings a cynical smile to Ziad's lips. From the archives of the paper he brings files on top of files flowing with material which was cut by the censor. A glance at the news and articles which were cut, or partially censored, leaves me in great confusion. Among the materials are announcements of obituaries, and news containing information which had already appeared in all of the Israeli media, in Hebrew and even in Arabic.

A report about people of the Committee for Solidarity with Bir-Zeit who tried to get from Tel Aviv to Bir-Zeit, was cut. A report from a Lebanese newspaper, which accused the Phalange of responsibility for the massacre at Sabra and Shatilla was cut. An article by Dr Sabar Husayn, a lecturer at the University of Abu-Dis who was fired, protesting the policy of the civil administration which on the one hand was firing lecturers and on the other complaining of a lack of manpower, was cut.

Exact translations of articles from the Israeli press and YEDIOT AHARONOT were removed. An editorial, telling readers of AL-FAJR of the appointment of an investigating commission of the slaughter of Palestinians was removed. Judgments by military courts were regularly censored out. Most of these judgments were affirmed and appeared in the Israeli Arabic newspaper AL-ANBA', but were censored out of AL-FAJR. Even very informative news, such as the reopening of a teachers school which had been closed following demonstrations in the preceding week, was censored out. All translations of material from the Israeli press dealing with settlements in the occupied territories were censored. Censorship likewise was applied to news of land expropriations. Also censored were reports of persons killed in clashes with Israeli forces in the territories.

All material written for AL-FAJR in Arabic, from political news to obituaries and crossword puzzles, is sent to the censor for review. Every day, a messenger from AL-FAJR makes his way from the newspaper office in the old city to Irgun House in the new city, where the military censor's offices are located. The AL-FAJR messenger goes this way three times each night — at eight-thirty, at ten, and at eleven o'clock, when he comes back with the news earmarked for AL-FAJR's first page.

The first page, which includes all of the "news", is also the most problematic page. "Today, we do not even waste any time trying to get by with articles or news that appears to us to be extreme," says Abu-Ziad. "We try first to figure out what the censor thinks, and then we send over what seems to us to be logical. We exercise self censorship."

But even self censorship by the paper and its editors does not always match the censor's thinking. They work without any criteria, according to Ziad. Everything is according to their momentary state of mind. According to Ziad, in order to print a full edition, they have to be ready with one and a half editions.

"When we send over the messenger on the last time, and he returns with the news for the first page, we discover that so much has been censored that we are left with completely empty columns. In that case, we start to move news from the inside pages to the first page, and that is how it looks on the next day: random, not always coherent, uninteresting. We fill up the inside pages with material which we draw from our "refrigerator", material which had already been sent to and approved by the censor. This is material which is of no interest to anyone, because it is old news which happened in northern Thailand. But we have no alternative. We cannot leave empty pages. That would be a violation of the censorship law. We cannot leave any indication of censorship.

Often our editorials are censored at the last minute and we do not have enough time to write new material. In such cases, in the place of the editorial we make a small box with an apology to our readers, who already understand."

According to Ziad Abu-Ziad, this policy of severe, uncompromising censorship without clear criteria had already been adopted during the days of the Alignment. But under Milson, there has been a substantial escalation.

A survey of all editions of AL-FAJR reveals a journalism enlisted in the Palestinian cause, but cautious in its style and very compromising. I said to Ziad that sometimes it seemed to me that even the moderates in the Israeli press seemed more extreme.

This statement evokes from Abu-Ziad a crooked smile. He says: "In the editorial of this week I made a comparison between the situation of the Israeli captives, whose condition was described by Ajluni as being very good, and that of the Palestinian captives in Lebanon, who are suffering difficult conditions and living under the sky, because Israel does not recognize them as prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. The editorial was censored out. I rewrote it, and again it was censored out, even though it was less sharp and extreme.

"It is difficult and very frustrating to put out a paper in this way. Our journalistic work is very retarded, if the work which we do under these pressures can even be called journalism," says Ziad.

Until now, AL-FAJR has been closed three times because of disputes with the censor. Once it was closed for a month, another time for ten days, and once it was prohibited from circulation in the territories for 30 days. It is in constant competition with the Arabic dailies AL-QUDS and AL-SHA'AB, and it always is damaged by the closing decrees. According to Abu-Ziad, AL-QUDS, whose chief editor is Abu-Zuluf, is always concerned about being neutral and living in peace with everyone. With the PLO, with Jordan, and with the Palestinians. So when AL-FAJR is closed, they profit from it. Its good relations with the Israeli authorities save them from the unpleasantness of this sort.

Ziad attributes the constant closing decrees which his paper receives to the position of the paper in opposing the village councils and the attempts of the Israeli civil administration to find alternatives to a Palestinian leadership. He says: "In this way they conspire against us. The censorship is like a filter. It is ridiculous. The censorship and its use of its authority is almost random. Otherwise there is no explaining the conduct of the Israeli authorities towards us. They summon our reporters from various cities on the West Bank for endless interrogations. They humiliate and terrorize them. I was summoned by the military administration in Bethlehem once a month for the last three months. I spend hours waiting for someone to talk to me. Inside, the officers mock me, laugh at me, humiliate me, threaten me. Our reporter in Shechem is regularly arrested for whole days at a time, as is our correspondent in Jenin.

"If such things happened to your correspondents, the whole world would rise in an outcry. You are always condemning the oppression of intellectuals in the USSR, but you look the other way when it is done to intellectuals on the West Bank. You, the Israeli people, see the Palestinians as a people of terrorists. You do not recognize the culture of this people, its human side, its folklore, etc." He is almost bitter in saying this.

"There are terrible things happening in the territories, which, if even the extreme rightists among you knew about, they would not accept. They lock up refugee camps, go into homes and beat up the residents, frighten children, mix up piles of food — sugar with salt and flour so that it cannot be used. They break bones. Israelis don't know any of the details about this."

A perusal of the Arabic edition of AL-FAJR shows that details about these matters does not reach the Arab population — the hand of the censor takes care to hide them and cut them out.

AL-QUDS, the competing newspaper, has a freer arm, perhaps because it is known as more moderate. Journalistically, it is considered of a higher level, and its circulation is greater than that of AL-FAJR. The latter sells between eight and ten thousand copies, while AL-QUDS claims a circulation of 20 thousand. ASH-SHA'AB has an approach identical to that of AL-FAJR (both of them reflect the national line with respect to the occupied territories); it sells fewer copies and is not a serious competitor among the readership of east Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

Abu-Ziad claims that AL-QUDS is a commercial paper, whose owners view it primarily as an economic enterprise. "Ajluni devotes the paper primarily to the service of the interests of the Palestinian people".

According to Abu-Ziad, the paper depends only upon a small monthly infusion from Paul Ajluni. It does not receive support from the PLO or any other body, except for the contribution from Ajluni, he says.

Informed persons in East Jerusalem believe otherwise. Rumor has it that AL-FAJR maintains itself by money coming from Ajluni, but ultimately from the PLO, rich businessmen from Libya and Saudi Arabia, and businessmen in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the U.S., whose purpose is to support the dovish trend directed towards the establishment of relations and peace between Israel and the PLO.

The readership of the two papers is considered young and intelligent. Abu-Ziad says that AL-FAJR succeeds in maintaining a political consciousness in spite of the censor. He says that it could be that his paper's readers belong to that group which cares about political matters, and it buys AL-FAJR in order to identify with its sufferings and to express its support. According to Abu-Ziad this group is well informed that the paper which it reads sometimes appears poor and compromising, but not because of an inept staff or editorship.

During the Peace in Galilee Campaign and the occupation of lands in Lebanon, the people at AL-FAJR were doubly careful not to give the military censor a reason to close the paper, especially during the war when the Palestinian people were in national mourning. Abu-Ziad says that they were very well informed regarding Israel's situation in the war. During the first days of the war, they were very much grieved to see Israeli forces approaching Beirut. Many Palestinians on the street thought that it was the end of the Palestinian National Movement. They feared that the PLO would be destroyed by Israeli forces.

When the IDF did not enter Beirut,...(Abu Ziad carefully explains his words. The IDF did not succeed in entering Beirut, he says. I ask aggressively: Did not succeed? Ziad tells me to simply write: "did not enter"), the morale rose. Even when the PLO had to leave Beirut, the Palestinians were proud. Voicing pride and sounding like a nationalist proclamation, Ziad Says: We were the only Arab force to face the Israelis and not flee. Ziad then moves to discuss the slaughter at Sabra and Shatilla.

He says: "During the massacre we were in national mourning. We wrote everything that we could. We used every scrap of information that we could get past the censor."

I ask: "Did you have more aggressive papers during the war?" The bitter smile appears again on the face of the seasoned editor. He says: "We cannot be aggressive. We know who is lying in wait for us. Therefore, our paper did not adopt an aggressive or extremist line. And not because we love the censor or because we are polite."

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INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL 'IVRI

Tel Aviv BAMAHAHEH in Hebrew 5 Jan 83 pp 10-12

[Interview with Air Force General David 'Ivri by Oded Feldman and Ya'ir Lapid; date and place not specified]

[Text] The futile efforts of Soviet missile specialists to discover the reasons behind the failure of the Syrian air defense system during the Galilee Peace War is one of the greatest compliments to the ability of the Israeli air force, and to the man who headed the air force for the last 5 years--General David 'Ivri. His ability to make cold, calculated and quick decisions, and his calm exterior--all traits of a combat flier--served General 'Ivri well when he took over the helm of the air force. Last week, on the evening he turned over his command to his replacement, General Amos Lapidot, General 'Ivri granted a farewell interview to BAMAHAHEH, during which he summed up the 5 years of his air force command, an air force considered to be the best in the world.

[Question] General 'Ivri, 5 years ago, you took over a divided air force in Israel, in Sinai, in Sha'aram. Today, you are leaving the force, which now extends only as far as the green line. Is it a different air force?

[Answer] First of all, factually speaking, it is a different air force. What is an air force? It is people and equipment. And the infrastructures--but mainly people and equipment. Some of the people have changed, some have left the force and many new, young men have joined it. The same holds true with regard to equipment. Some have gone out of service, worn and old from war. Other equipment--young and pretty and sophisticated--has entered into service. Objectively, we are not limited by the green line, because we are also in Lebanon, Judea and Samaria. Thus I am happy, and sad, that we still have new frontiers. I say sad because we are a bit crowded in the Negev.

As far as the infrastructure, the air force is unique. The evacuation of the Sinai was a very difficult logistic operation for us. We "lost" Ofir, Rafidim, 'Itam and 'Etzion, as well as several other Hook missile launch locations and many communications and information bases which cannot be replaced. At the same time, however, we received new equipment like the F-15 and F-16, the Defender and the Cobra. For each piece of equipment we had to build a "home," a shelter, a laboratory--and train technicians. Thus the

air force has certainly been through a very intensive period, as far as logistics and training. Parallely, we performed many exercises and developed techniques to preserve or even to increase our lead in terms of quality. Thus I think that the air force today is different. However, the air force is still heading in the same direction as it was 5 years ago, with regard to both training and development of fighting tactics. The main difference now is the withdrawal from Sinai and the clash in Lebanon.

[Question] Have the fears you expressed at the time of the signing of the Camp David accords proven true?

[Answer] The fears I had then proved justified. There were fears from several points of view--from the standpoint of myself, personally, as a commander, taking over an extended air force about to be restricted. I feared that when I left they would still call me "The national destroyer of the air force." Other fears were related to our reduced launch capability and its effect on the infrastructure. I think we managed to compensate somewhat for these problems by developing new tactics and strategies.

[Question] The air force, during your tenure, set new operational records: The destruction of the Iraqi nuclear plant, the elimination of the Syrian anti-aircraft missile system in Lebanon and the downing of 87 enemy planes in air battles, with no fatalities on our side. Isn't there a danger that the air force will now rest on its laurels and become complacent?

[Answer] Of course there is that danger. Anyone who does not recognize it is likely to find himself in some very difficult situations in the future. I think the air force is aware of the danger, and that awareness is the first step toward a solution. The post-Galilee Peace War air force has entered a period of thought and enactment of future war situations, not necessarily based on past experience. The force's eyes today are very open to what is happening on the Syrian front, and especially Syria's growing independence. The fear exists, but the awareness exists, too, and in my opinion, we are on the right track.

[Question] In your opinion, will there be significant changes in the force's doctrines as a result of the last war?

[Answer] I don't think so, I know so. We are always changing doctrines, and have been since a week after the war. Unfortunately, I can't go into more detail.

[Question] The air force is known as a family force, with very personal relations between commanders and enlisted men. Today, the force is a huge, well-oiled and sophisticated machine. Will the family atmosphere be smothered by such a huge machine?

[Answer] I don't want to analyze the past. I think that people look at past history with nostalgia and not objectively. I certainly believe with all my heart that the family feeling still exists within smaller units of the air force, from a social point of view and in terms of morale. I participated,

over the last few years, in many, many events in various units. Both the atmosphere and the performances, as I saw them, were at a higher level than in the past. I think that this atmosphere spread to other units, outside the framework of the air command, for example to the anti-aircraft group.

[Question] The air force is known for the high quality of its manpower, even in comparison to the rest of the army. Why isn't there a greater degree of integration between the air force and the general command?

[Answer] The air force is interested in integrating with the rest of the army. We send men to and suggest men for positions in other commands. This question should be understood from the perspective of the general staff. From a human point of view, at least, I am convinced that we have a great deal to contribute. There is, however, the objective problem of insufficient skills and background, which make it difficult for air force people to integrate into ground forces. Thus the general staff is not always open to accepting air force personnel for ground positions. However, I can testify to the fact that over the last few years there has been a greater effort made in this direction.

[Question] In a previous interview you said that you would have preferred to attack the Syrian missiles first and only then the Iraqi nuclear plant. Would the air force have attacked the Syrian missiles even if the Galilee Peace War had not erupted?

[Answer] To answer such a question, I would have to enter the realm of prophecy. In my opinion, we would have reached the point of attacking the Syrian missiles either in the context of the Galilee Peace War or some other conflict. Those missiles represented a strategic change in the Middle East, whereby the Syrians took on a strategic position outside of their domain. Personally, I would have preferred to attack the missiles first and only afterwards the nuclear plant. That would have been my military perspective. The longer that missile system existed, the stronger and more independent it became. Its threat became greater and greater, and the challenge became more difficult. Since there was a decision by the government on the issue, in April 1981, I would have simply preferred from a military perspective, to attack the missiles first.

[Question] Can you say today that the threat of the Syrian missiles has been eliminated?

[Answer] That would simply not be true. They still have new ground-air missiles in greater quantities than before. Although the missiles are no longer in the "valley" but in Syria, the threat remains. Since the Syrian missile system is expensive and since it is the back bone of Syrian security, I think they will invest even more in it in the future.

[Question] Attack helicopters won some stunning victories in the Galilee Peace War--both against land targets and especially against the Syrian armored corps. In the future, will the helicopter threaten the superiority of the tank in the war arena?

[Answer] Definitely not! The helicopter will never replace the tank, just as cannons can never replace guns. Tanks will never replace jeeps and trucks can not substitute for buses. We just produce new equipment to close up gaps in the battle capabilities of other weapons. That is the way a fighting force should be built. The battle helicopter closes certain gaps in situations where tanks and planes are less effective. It creates a high quality stop gap in certain areas of weakness. Indirectly, from the moment you start investing in battle helicopters, you've cut into other systems, into their relative portion of the economic pie and defense budget.

[Question] Might it be said, following the Galilee Peace War, that western technology is superior to that of the Soviets?

[Answer] In general, yes. But it is not just a question of western technology, but also of understanding. The West, as distinguished from the East, builds on quality as opposed to quantity. The regard for human life and training is totally different. The West seeks to maintain a minimal military presence during times of peace, to create a small army that can stand on its own until additional forces are recruited. This kind of force must be given quality weaponry. In those places where human life is less dear, you can solve the problem with greater quantities of weapons. Thus the Soviet weaponry is usually simple, cheap, reliable and abundant, while western arms are higher quality, sophisticated and devastating.

[Question] During your tenure, the development of the "Lavi" was undertaken. Is this project part of the trend to become less dependent on the United States?

[Answer] No. That is not the decisive element in such a project. First of all, because of the fact that the Lavi has an American engine, which today we do not have the ability to produce ourselves. In general, today, countries are more interdependent than in the past. There was a time when you could build a Piper in your own country and claim that you were not dependent on anyone else. That was appropriate during the 1930s and 1940s. Today, technology is such that I don't even believe that the super powers themselves are always independent. Take for example the issue of oil or strategic materials. Every country should strive for independence, not just in defense, but also economic independence. By the same token, however, I don't think the Lavi project is aimed at military independence. The Lavi will replace the Skyhawk and the Kafir in the future and will integrate into the growth plan for the air force. We have reached the conclusion that it will give us the best security "per shekel" over the years to come. The economic outlook has brought us to a situation wherein we can no longer purchase too many planes from abroad. We have to build a plane that is relatively inexpensive and modern, and one that gives the air force that which it requires, economically, and nationally, both from the standpoint of future enemies and in terms of strengthening the force itself.

[Question] Of what importance was the weaponry developed in Israel during the Galilee Peace War?

[Answer] Very important--important and qualitative. Israeli-made weapons lived up to their expectations. There were even pleasant surprises in certain areas. In sum, since the results of the Galilee Peace War were positive, our evaluation of Israeli weaponry is quite positive as well.

[Question] Were you surprised by the air force's achievements in the Galilee Peace War?

[Answer] I can honestly say that I did not expect the results that were achieved. By the same token, when you start to succeed, the importance of a "no loss" victory for our troops in air battles takes on a different perspective, which begins to impact on decision-making. Thus, as time went on, it became clear that we could gain more, but on the other hand, even the smallest mistake might have changed the balance. Due to this consideration, the desire to maintain a zero loss balance, I was pleased when the cease fire went into effect. At that point it became easy to maintain our record. As far as planes downed and lives lost, I would have wanted the same result all along, but it was hard to believe that it could really be possible.

[Question] Were you surprised by the skill of the Syrian air force?

[Answer] No. I think the Syrian air force is not bad. I think the major reason for its failure was the inferior Syrian command.

[Question] They say that the Jordanian air force, with whom we have not clashed since 1967, presents the greatest potential threat. What is your opinion?

[Answer] We are privy to the same rumors as you. We know that since they also receive training from western pilots, their battle perspective is entirely different, and there is a possibility that they are much better than the Syrians.

[Question] You said that the Syrian air force was "not bad," but that the command of the air force was defective. What is the relative weight of command during a battle in time of war?

[Answer] Strategy and command decisions can certainly determine the outcome of a war. There have been many indications to support this notion over the last few years. Who starts is a very important factor, as was true in the Yom Kippur War. It is possible that the individual within a system will have an important role and excel, and, if he is not knocked out, he can excel on the ground forever. The command, control system must operate from strength. The results of a war, modern or otherwise, are largely determined by the command network. Modern wars are coordinated by command networks which have greater means and more data at their disposal with which to make the right decision. Information, time and the ability of quick command transfers determine to a large degree the outcome of a war.

[Question] How are we preparing for war on other fronts?

[Answer] What is the role of the military staff? To sit, to think, to analyze the situation vis-a-vis the enemy, to learn about the enemy's infrastructures. That is the role of the general staff. Together you build, slowly, a world view, a view of the developing war. Then this view is expressed in strategy. That is the process of military build-up, the foundation of a doctrine. The army is a living, thinking organism which uses operating procedures which respond to demand and change.

[Question] What have other forces learned from us as a result of the achievements of the last war? What do we learn from other wars, like the Falkland Islands campaign, for example?

[Answer] It is part of the natural course of events that every army learns from the wars conducted by others. The problem is, do you learn the right things and do you have the right information. We learn mainly from information in the public domain. Naturally, it is easiest for us to learn from the achievements of the Galilee Peace War, and that is mainly what we are concerned with. Other countries, with whom we have relations, try to learn from us.

[Question] How do you see the future involvement of the air force in the context of your new role as chairman of the board of the Israel Aircraft Industry?

[Answer] My involvement in the force will be that of an outsider. I only hope that I will be able to fly from time to time. When you vacate a position, you have to give everything up to the new commander. Of course, if he requests assistance or advice, I would gladly help. But now, he is the commander, and "Long live the king."

[Question] What would you like to wish General Lapidot in his new position?

[Answer] As the saying goes, "May his happiness be multiplied seven times over mine." I wish him great success and much luck.

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ISRAEL

GAZA BIRTH RATE NOTED

Tel Aviv AL HAMISHMAR 12 Dec 82 p 8

[Article: "Slowdown in Birth Rate in Gaza Strip"]

[Text] A slowing trend is perceptible in the birth rate of communities in the Gaza Strip, and this trend has been occurring for the past 4 to 5 years. This conclusion arises from a report currently published regarding civil administration activity in the region of the Strip.

From the data in the report, it is apparent that the population of the Strip at the end of 1981 numbered 450 thousand, as compared to 440 thousand in the preceding year. Of that number, about 265 thousand are refugees, and constitute 60 percent of the population. The average annual growth for recent years has been 2.2 percent.

The number of Gaza Strip residents employed in agriculture within Israel declined significantly, by 11 percent at the end of 1981, as compared to the parallel period in the preceding year. This decline emphasizes the crisis which is currently visiting Israeli agriculture. On the other hand, in construction there was recorded an increase of four percent in the number of Strip residents employed within Israel.

In sum, about 43 percent of the labor force of the region is working in Israel, numbering in 1981 82,500 workers.

Another figure included in the report points to progress in the rise in standard of living of the residents of the Strip. For example, the number of families owning an electric refrigerator by the end of 1981 reached 66 percent, as compared to only 2.4 percent in 1967. Today, about 70 percent of the population owns televisions, as compared to 3.3 percent after the Six Day War. But the number of owners of color television does not exceed one percent of the population.

In the introduction to the report, the head of the civil administration, Col Yosef Lunz, writes among other things that the relative tranquility in the Gaza Strip is continuing even into this year, despite far reaching changes which occurred in the region with the return of the Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty.

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STATUS OF COUNTRY'S JEWS EXAMINED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 273, 14 Feb 83 pp 30-32

[Article: "Lebanese Jews Refuse Immigration to Israel"]

[Text] All the Israeli efforts to get Lebanese Jews to immigrate to Israel have met with failure despite the fact that such efforts were overseen by Refa'el Katolovich, chairman of the immigration office in the Zionist Agency, who spent a number of days with the leaders of the Jewish sect in East Beirut in an attempt to convince them to immigrate. His efforts were only successful in convincing a small number to join their relatives in Israel while the majority expressed an interest in returning to their homes in West Beirut, which they had left due to the destruction of the Lebanese war and due to their fear of an Israeli attack on West Beirut.

Perhaps the report published by the newspaper HA'ARETZ concerning the status of Jews in Beirut during the Israeli seige came as a direct blow to the efforts of officials of the Zionist Agency who did not hesitate to announce in international circles that the Jews of Lebanon, like the rest of the Jews of the Arab world, deserve an investigation of inhumane treatment. They requested that the United States and international organizations guarantee the safety of the Jewish sects in the Arab countries, a matter which prompted the Jews of Lebanon to send a cable to Israeli officials and the secretary general of the United Nations stressing that they did not need protection by anyone. The correspondent for HA'ARETZ met, in front of the synagogue of Wadi-Abu-Jamil located in the heart of the Jewish quarter of West Beirut, with a number of Jews who refused even to be moved to East Beirut during the Israeli bombing despite its severity. One of them, Ya'qub Ashkenazi, a businessman and bank owner in the district, stressed that he had not experienced any hostility from the Muslim populace or the PLO forces, contradicting what the Zionist Agency had tried to spread, and that the only damage which had occurred was the breakage of windows in their religious centers resulting from Israeli planes breaking the sound barrier.

THE JERUSALEM POST published an article by the journalist Hadasa Hayim under the headline "A Visit to Lebanon," which followed a visit she was able to take to Lebanon because of her British passport, in which she showed the lies of Zionist propaganda concerning the Arab persecution of Jews in Lebanon and the Arab states. She stated that the Jews of Lebanon were businessmen and owned a number of commercial establishments and that the children spoke Hebrew. This

came essentially as a refutation of the Israeli officials' attempt to exploit the bomb explosion in a Jewish school in Beirut called "Salim Turab" an explosion which shattered the windows of neighboring buildings and injured a number of sick Arabs in a nearby Arab hospital. They said that this demonstrated the fear in which the Lebanese Jews live because of the Palestinian presence there. But the Lebanese authorities and the PLO denounced the incident and considered it to be the latest Zionist conspiracy aimed at terrorizing Lebanese Jews and getting them to immigrate to Israel. It is believed that the long-range goal of the incident was to show the impossibility of peaceful coexistence among various sects in one country in order to thwart the plan proposed by the PLO which calls for establishing a secular democratic state in Palestine which would include all sects on an equal footing.

Aside from the bombing operations which Israel pursues in Jewish areas inside the Arab countries, its practices with the Lebanese Jews during the past decade have extended to enticing a number of them, by offering high salaries, to conduct a number of fraudulent financial operations aimed at shaking the Lebanese economy and creating a hostile atmosphere toward the Jews in Lebanon in order to make their lives difficult and force them to immigrate to Israel. An example of this type of operation would be to have a Jew borrow vast amounts of money in exchange for corporate bonds signed by others and then to declare bankruptcy and leave Lebanon under suspicious conditions after a number of businessmen and Lebanese banks have fallen into economic crisis. A Jewish businessman, Amil Bitshoto, carried out such an activity. All of his money was sent abroad after he declared bankruptcy and it became clear that he was indebted to a number of banks and businessmen in the amount of 30 million Lebanese pounds. There was also the case of businessman Dawud Mazrami from Tripoli who left with his family to Greece and from there to Brazil leaving behind debts in the amount of 2 million pounds. Mazrami withdrew all of his money from the banks one day before his departure after he had purchased some expensive goods which he paid for with postdated checks. Then he returned and sold them at attractive prices. There was also the case of the head of the Jewish quarter in Sidon Edmond Murad Biliano who fled to Israel after he had bilked a Lebanese businessman for one half million Lebanese pounds.

It is not known exactly how many Jews are currently living in Lebanon but they do not exceed several hundred. Their roots go back to the central basin areas. There are a number of Ashkenazis who came from Palestine, particularly from Zefat and Tiberias before 1948 for trade.

Despite the flow of large numbers of Jews from Syria, Iraq and Iran to Lebanon since the 1950's, the decrease in their population is attributable primarily to economic factors. Jews are either traders, owners of establishments, businessmen or investors. Therefore, a number of Jews have moved their capital to countries which have opened their doors to immigration such as Canada and Australia where the Jews have found new fields of trade and business and have been able to realize greater profits than they could get in the Middle East, especially after the events of June 1967. Only a small portion immigrated to Israel since the Jews of Lebanon realized what a difficult life new immigrants had in Israel, especially Jews from Arab countries. Another factor was instability and the atrocious tax system which would limit their freedom to act compared to

the favorable conditions in Lebanon where they enjoyed the Lebanese economic freedom to the greatest extent. There they could control the stock market and deal with a large number of Lebanese, Arab and Jewish banks including the Ya'qub Safra Bank, which has been called the National Lending Bank, and the Khuduri Zalkha Bank, which has become the Lebanese Banking Company. The Jews could also own large amounts of land in South Lebanon, especially in the area of southwest Tyre and the area located between Tyre and Sidon. Lebanese Jewish families, the most famous being the Barzidi and Saydawi families, owned one fourth of the shares of a company which buys and sells land located from Khaldah to the South along the coast.

No racist acts have ever occurred against the Jews of Lebanon except in 1948 when some Jewish establishments were closed because of their Zionist inclinations, specifically the youth athletic organization Maccabee which supported the Irgun gangs led by Menahem Begin and worked to get Jews to immigrate to Palestine. Lebanese journalism at that time made a distinction between Jews and Zionists and the Lebanese authorities maintained their previous program for Jewish sects and allowed them to continue teaching Hebrew. Even the Arab blacklist of Zionist products announced by the Arab league did not affect at all the economic status of Lebanese Jews. After the war all the reserve measures which were enacted due to battle conditions were repealed and even though immigration to Israel was forbidden the Lebanese-Israeli armistice committee meetings of May 1949 permitted a limited number of Jews to join their families in Israel.

The events of the June 1967 war did not lead to a change in the stability enjoyed by Jews in Lebanon, nor did the years of the Lebanese war which demonstrated the role of the Israeli authorities and their schemes in Lebanon through Israel's military alliances on all levels with the parties of the Lebanese Front. It is not unlikely that the issue of immigration of Lebanese Jews from Lebanon to Israel forms but another link in the chain of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the focusing, through it, on the immigration of Jews from the Arab countries. Perhaps the focusing of the Israeli media since the first weeks of the invasion on the role of Jews of Lebanese origin, one of them named Halevy from the settlement of (Kfar Atha) east of Haifa who used to live in Sidon, in leading Israeli troops in the battles of the South can be blamed for igniting the hatred against the Jews of Lebanon in particular and the Jews of the Arab world in general. This hatred runs parallel to the Zionist claims which may then lead to forcing the Jews to immigrate to Israel.

CSO: 4404/253

LABOR FEDERATION ELECTIONS VIEWED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 309, 22 Jan 83 pp 44-45

[Article: "General Labor Federation Elections: Fateful Election Campaign?"]

[Text] The elections of the General Labor Federation [GLF] in Lebanon give rise to some worry since they have taken on the hue of a labor struggle. Talks and efforts are underway to reconcile views and positions are to delay the elections. Next Tuesday, 25 January, was originally scheduled to be the date for the executive council elections in Lebanon, elections that are really to select the new body of the council office.

These elections are of particular importance based on the following considerations:

- A. They will be the first elections held since the 1975 events and are marked by the stamp of the political party struggle which has accompanied those events from the beginning up to today.
- B. They will be elections in the GLF which was almost in the forefront of institutions which preserved the integrity of the country during the events and which was unaffected by the splits and fragmentation. Accordingly, these elections are important because they will determine whether the federation is destined to remain united, split, or at least be threatened with a split.
- C. These elections will ultimately have one of two results: either the party will dominate the union or vice versa.

The body of the present board, which was elected in 1977 under the chairmanship of George Saqr, at that time won a majority of 11 votes to seven, the latter going to candidate Antoine Bisharah. The latter is the chairman of the Federation of Independent Authorities and Public and Private Institutions while Saqr is the head of the Petroleum Sector Federation.

Since that date and up to this time, misgivings about the elections have been on the minds of a part of the federation membership for a variety of reasons. Since the basic term of the body of the office ended in 1979, the issue of elections has been raised repeatedly and always run up against the reality of politics and security which barred any elections. Things operated on the

principle of extensions, starting with the Chamber of Deputies and running down to the smallest union or Lebanese association.

However, talk about elections over the past 3 years, in addition to other factors, created agitation which, in some cases, went beyond acceptable bounds, among the members of the federation which comprises 18 federations.

However, the political and security stability, which began when President Amin al-Jummayil assumed his constitutional powers, made the call for elections issued by 10 federations which met about 3 months earlier achievable, particularly since all members agreed on scheduling the election for 25 January on the assumption that the political and security situation would be suitable.

Since that time, quiet preparations for the campaign were begun only to be made public early this month when the joint action committee of the Lebanese Front announced the nomination of one of its two leaders, Joseph Nasr, for the executive office board of the federation as part of a homogeneous team. It should be noted that Nasr is a member of the Lebanese Phalange Party and is head of its social authority.

The initiative of the joint action committee revealed the Lebanese Phalange Party's desire to nominate one of its leaders for the post of GLF secretary general and to bring in an action team akin at least to the chairman, the nominee for which post is Antoine Bisharah who reportedly has been a member of the Phalange Party for a relatively short time.

This advance knowledge of the Lebanese Phalange Party's plan prompted quick efforts to propose a formula of understanding based on keeping Joseph Saqr as chairman of the federation because he represented the alliance of the center, left and political Islam in the GLF with the understanding that Nasr would be secretary general, representing the Phalange and the forces allied with it. The federation would thereby be given a cohesive unity enabling it to continue to do its job effectively and dynamically.

However, the winds of the efforts for understanding brought something different from what was desired by the ships of partisan fervor for reasons some of which may appear later.

When this formula for understanding broke up, the National Federation of Labor Unions (representing the leftist clout in the GLF) held a press conference on 12 December to announce its implicit adherence to the formula of understanding and control, feeling that unity of GLF was at stake.

Accordingly the struggle within the GLF came out into the open as part of the statements of the right and the left with the voice of the independents lost, the independents who, were they able to exercise their independence, could be the deciding voice in the ongoing quarrel.

Balance of Forces

The fact is that this quarrel has not so far abrogated the existing tacit alliance between the left, center and political Islam because this faction includes no persons seeking the chairmanship but rather are unanimous on the need to retain Saqr's chairmanship because of his competence, liberalism and reputation in international labor circles. On the other hand, the other faction includes a number of persons seeking the chairmanship, including Tawfiq Abu Khalil (representing textile workers), Faris Daghir (banks), Ilyas Sha'ya (aviation) and Antoine Bisharah (port and water authorities). However the composition of the homogeneous team named by the joint action committee led to a collapse of the candidates and the only one left that has not fallen through the sieve is Antoine Bisharah who came out above the others for a number of considerations, possibly because he is the most competent and able.

So a few days before the elections, the situation appears even with regard to the distribution of forces. With regard to votes and in a democratic climate, the campaign appears to be "up for grabs," as they say, since the left and center faction has 18 votes and the rightwing faction has 18.

Between the Two Chairmen

Apart from the two quarreling factions and the statements of each and in taking a very objective view, neutral persons view the campaign through the good and bad points of each of the two candidates for chairman, Antoine Bisharah and Joseph Saqr. Antoine Bisharah is open to criticism as chairman for the following:

1. Bisharah heads a federation which includes a number of independent interests and public institutions, such as the port, municipality and water authorities. The employees of these authorities are closer to the public sector than the private and so the bad thing about his chairmanship would be that he represents the public sector, not the workers of the private sector who more than others fight the battles for wages and benefits.
2. Bisharah is characterized by divisive behavior in the GLF. In 1977, after his failure in the elections for chairman of the federation, he led an opposition based on seven federations detached from the meetings of the GLF for quite some time until the matter was remedied. He repeated the try 2 years ago and announced his rejection of the follow up committee arising from the executive council and for a time continued to operate in isolation from its membership.
3. Bisharah maintains a generalized stance in most of his positions and does not get specific.

The man's good points are summed up as follows:

1. He is a strategist and knows what he wants though he does not divulge all his inner thoughts.

2. He has quite a good scientific and labor education.
3. He has many activities and interests in the fields of housing, cooperation, and labor organization, etc.
4. He is capable of achieving some fundamental labor goals.

Joseph Saqr is criticized for the following:

1. He is temperamental and lacks sufficient ability for political flexibility which would make him acceptable in circumstances of difficult negotiations.
2. He adheres to his public and explicit position on the subject of the Israeli occupation and has engaged in successful tours in this regard in the International Federation of Free Unions (headquarters in Brussels) of which he has been a member for many years.
3. He is no longer a worker as he retired about 2 years ago after having worked in leading positions in the Mobil Oil Company which later became (wardi holdings) [as published].

The man's good points are:

1. He has an advanced university education and may be the only labor leader to have graduated from the American University [AUE].
2. He is stubborn and is not open to any sort of haggling on labor issues, particularly the issue of pay which is holy to him.
3. He accomplished a number of things during his term, principally establishing a price index through one of the private firms which he was able to apply in all increases approved since 1977.

Projections

However, is the campaign for the chairmanship of the CLF a campaign of the good and bad points of persons or is it one of their skills? The immediate answer is negative because every election campaign in Lebanon involves "Lebanese considerations," denominational, partisan, personal, etc.

In any case, the basic concern in the CLF campaign is preserving its unity and cohesiveness because its split would be a danger and not just a temporary one, and because a rupture in it at this stage would leave its marks on many other labor and non-labor institutions.

Facing this flareup, the administration has not stood idly by and is extremely anxious for a rallying together, not for fragmentation and division. Accordingly, the possibilities a few days before the elections are:

1. Postponement of the elections to some other date as was done with the board of directors of social security in anticipation of more suitable conditions more able to alter specific factors or have one side beat the other. This solution is available to the government through a decree issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

2. Coming up with a formula of understanding satisfactory to all parties, a formula whose general outlines are not visible at present.

3. There is still another and more difficult possibility, that is, for the elections to take place. If their results are different from the published lists and the chasm can be crossed. If the campaign is marked by convulsions, the fate of the GLF will be on shaky grounds and no one knows who wants or does not want this fate.

8389

CSO: 4404/214

STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS DISCUSSED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 298, 17-23 Jan 83 p 3

[Article: "Senior Officials Confused: Inducements for Resignation or Advantages of Privileges?"]

[Text] A plan was proposed 2 years ago to increase end of service compensation for employees by 3 months for each year of service after 20 years. The current law gives an employee compensation of 1 month for each year up to 10 years and 2 months compensation for each year after 10 years.

A director general in the government said that this issue had been raised with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan but that the plan had not yet been officially discussed because it was connected with other plans which the government wished to discuss based on the extraordinary powers law and in light of administrative and fiscal interests.

On the working level, a ministerial source noted that the reorganizations which involved the civil service council and central inspection headquarters had created a state of confusion among employees of the first and second classes since they were now awaiting another set or sets of reorganizations and this had helped to bring down productivity in departments.

The source was asked whether the reorganizations which had been published were final and set for the officials who had been redistributed in departments. He replied that the reorganizations involving Army Headquarters, the Directorate of Internal Security Forces and the Directorate of Public Security were final while others were open to modification in the light of specific factors and bases followed in organizing management.

In this connection, sources in the Palace of Justice talked about studies which some jurists had begun to prepare for reviewing the penal code and basic rules for civil, criminal and military trials based on the powers which the government has. Preparation of amendments are expected to be hurried, especially since the Ministry of Justice has several projects in this regard which the jurists can use. The objective of the old projects and the amendments which are being prepared is to establish legal procedures and enable the courts to settle cases quickly since it is illogical for consideration of civil cases to last for years and of criminal cases to last for a few

months up to a couple of years. In addition to this, establishment of procedures will be conducive to using the necessary number of judges. While the legal system is complaining today about the scarcity of judges, that does not mean that the state must increase the number 3 or 4 times the present number as some are urging.

The sources added that the new reorganizations which will be implemented in the legal system will give the judges a state of stability given the large number which it is intended to add to the rolls. In a meeting, President Amin al-Jumayyil announced that judges should not be treated as a class of ordinary employees but rather as a special class performing a sacred duty, that is, to exercise justice among the citizens and in this regard each decision adopted must be given consideration in order to raise the standard of the judiciary.

With regard to the measures which are being prepared to establish and facilitate practices and merging some independent authorities, informed circles stated that there is an inclination to do away with the social restoration authority and to divide up its functions between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health. The development authority would move from social restoration to the Ministry of Labor and become a general directorate. This ministry would then comprise three directorates; labor, employment and development. The health centers authority would move to the Ministry of Health which would then comprise three general directorates; labor, employment and development. The health centers authority would move to the Ministry of Health which would then comprise three general directorates, health, medical care and preventive health.

Circles said that the final decision on these measures still hinged on the studies which some specialists had been tasked with drafting and on ascertaining the new costs which would fall on the treasury.

These circles added that some advisers were proposing passing various regulations on the additional compensation to be paid to official wishing to resign. Those 60 years and older would be given compensation equaling 1 year's pay while those who had not yet reached 60 would get additional compensation equal to the pay of 1 year and 8 months. However, one adviser stresses that no inducement of this sort would encourage employees in the department to resign and the government would find itself forced to implement a radical purge in the departments. A director general says that employees in the first and second classes are waiting to find out the measures the government will take in the army after the grace period for officers' resignations is over. This grace period ends on 9 February. If these measures are in earnest and are radical, many employees will proceed to resign after the grace period is offered by the government, regardless of the amount of compensation. If the measures are the traditional sort, the vast majority of general directors and heads of authorities will hold off on submitting resignations because the issue is not one of compensation but one of staying or not staying in the administration. No additional compensation given to an employee can cover the [suffering in] morale and

and material loss which would come about in the event of resignation. An employee gets not only his salary but gets monthly compensation for overtime and gets medical service assistance though not each month but once each 3 months for him and members of his family. He gets scholarships if he has children in schools or universities and he can get a loan to buy a home. An employee who resigns will lose these perks and for this reason, talk about inducements through increasing the rate of end of service compensation is talk which will not encourage an employee to resign. As proof of this, Carlos-Khuri did not tender his resignation from the Republic [Presidential] Palace until after he was sure of his future in a private establishment, noting that Khuri could be a prominent accountant. Dr 'Umar Masikah did not tender his resignation from the [Presidential] palace until after he assured his future in a bank. Masikah had resigned earlier and then withdrew his resignation when negotiations on establishing the bank broke down. The positions taken by the former director general in the palace and the former secretary general of the cabinet gives some idea about the stances taken by each director general and each head of authority regarding an invitation extended to employees to resign in return for additional compensation.

8389

CSO: 4404/118

THIRD QUARTER BALANCE OF TRADE FIGURES DOWN

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 26 Dec 82 p 16

[Text] The General Statistics Administration of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy has issued the foreign trade statistics for the third quarter of 1982. These statistics revealed that the volume of imports for the third quarter of 1982 totaled approximately 32,433,000,000 riyals as opposed to 33,510,000,000 riyals in the first quarter of the year. This represents a decline of around 1,077,000,000 riyals.

Electrical machinery and equipment still represent the largest category of imports totaling 7,744,000,000 riyals or some 24 percent of all third quarter imports. This was in spite of a decline of around 1,561,000,000 riyals from the first quarter of the year when the comparable figures were 9,305,000,000 riyals and around 28 percent of the total.

Imports of automobiles and other means of transportation declined to third place among imports with a total value of only 5,012,000,000 riyals. This category occupied second place in the first quarter with approximately 5,862,000,000 riyals. This category represented only 15.5 percent of all imports in the third quarter as opposed to 17.5 percent in the first quarter.

Imports of metal products for the third quarter increased by around 1,060,000,000 riyals over the first quarter, representing 17.2 percent of the total versus the first quarter figure of only 13.5 percent.

Food imports declined by around 491 million riyals. In contrast to first quarter figures of 4,457,000,000 riyals and 13.3 percent of all imports, the figures for the third quarter were only about 3,966,000,000 riyals and 12.2 percent of the total.

Imports of chemicals, textiles, building materials, precision machines and equipment, furniture, and lumber rose by similar percentages.

Imports of jewelry, gems, and paper declined by roughly equal percentages but their relative importance among all imports remained about the same.

Most imports to Saudi Arabia come from Japan, the United States, and the West European states. Japan was the leader in imports in the third quarter

of 1982 with imports to the Kingdom totaling 6,490,000,000 riyals for an increase of 340,000,000 riyals over the first quarter. This put Japan ahead of the United States, which was the largest importer to the Kingdom during the first quarter with around 7,471,000,000 riyals. The third quarter figure for the United States was only 6,188,000,000 riyals. The West European states maintained their order except for France and Italy which traded places.

Exports

The Kingdom's exports for the third quarter of 1982 totaled approximately 61,272,000,000 riyals versus 83,743,000,000 riyals in the first quarter. The Kingdom's exports center on oil and oil derivatives. Japan was the number one importer from Saudi Arabia with 14,755,000,000 riyals in imports. The remaining countries in order were France with 5,511,000,000 riyals, the United States with 4,081,000,000 riyals, Italy with 2,532,000,000 riyals, West Germany with 2,532,000,000 riyals, and finally the United Kingdom with some 1,790,000,000 riyals. It is clear that the Kingdom's exports to these six states (which receives the majority of the exports) declined by large amounts in the third quarter of this year over the first quarter levels.

The Trade Balance

Despite the fact that the Kingdom's trade balance was still a surplus of around 28,839,000,000 riyals in the third quarter of 1982, this surplus is considerably less than the first quarter surplus of around 40,233,000,000 riyals. This decline is due to the Kingdom's cutback in its exports of oil and oil derivatives. This improved the trade balance for many states that have large commercial dealings with the Kingdom. For example, while Saudi Arabia realized a trade balance surplus of 13,991,000,000 riyals with Japan in the first quarter, this surplus declined to only around 8,265,000,000 riyals in the third quarter, allowing Japan to improve its trade balance with the Kingdom by around 5,726,000,000.

While Saudi Arabia's trade balance deficit with the United States in the first quarter of 1982 was approximately 1,248,000,000 riyals, this deficit increased to around 2,107,000,000 riyals in the third quarter, representing an increase of 859,000,000 riyals.

In addition, the Kingdom's trade balance deficit with West Germany increased from only approximately 470,000,000 riyals in the first quarter to around 1,101,000,000 riyals in the third quarter for an increase of 631,000,000 riyals.

Great Britain realized a sizable improvement in its trade balance with the Kingdom. Following a deficit of some 1,091,000,000 riyals in the first quarter of 1982, Britain realized a surplus of around 361,000,000 riyals in the third quarter.

France's trade balance deficit with the kingdom declined from 7,111,000,000 riyals in the first quarter of 1982 to around 3,774,000,000 riyals in the third quarter.

Italy's trade balance deficit with the Kingdom declined from 2,032,000,000 in the first quarter to only around 600 million riyals in the third quarter.

Statement of the Value of the Kingdom's Imports in the Third Quarter of 1982 in Comparison to the Same Figures for the First Quarter of 1982 (in millions of riyals)

Major Imports	1st Quarter 1982		3rd Quarter 1982		Rate of Growth
	<u>Value</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	
Machinery, tools and equipment	9,305	27.8	7,724	23.9	-16.8
Means of transportation	5,362	17.5	5,012	15.5	-14.5
Foodstuffs	4,457	13.3	3,966	12.2	-11.0
Metal products	4,528	13.5	5,588	17.2	23.4
Chemicals	1,842	5.5	2,052	6.3	11.4
Textiles	1,645	4.9	2,111	6.5	28.3
Building materials	1,463	4.4	1,539	4.7	5.2
Precision equipment and instruments	1,070	3.2	1,170	3.6	9.3
Jewelry and jewels	886	2.6	841	2.6	- 5.1
Furniture	792	2.4	877	2.7	10.7
Lumber	614	1.8	705	2.2	14.8
All varieties of paper	357	1.1	341	1.1	- 4.5
Other	689	2.0	487	1.5	-29.3
Totals	33,510	100.0	32,433	100.0	- 3.2

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics

Imports and Exports of the Kingdom To and From
Major Countries in the Third Quarter of 1982
Compared to First Quarter Figures (in millions
of riyals)

<u>State</u>	<u>1st Quarter 1982</u>		<u>1st [3rd probably intended] Quarter 1982</u>	
	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>
Japan	6,150	20,141	6,490	14,755
United States	7,471	6,323	6,188	4,081
West Germany	3,558	3,088	3,633	2,532
United Kingdom	2,083	3,174	2,151	1,790
France	1,939	9,060	1,737	5,511
Italy	1,981	4,013	2,129	2,729

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics

Outcome of the Kingdom's Trade Balance With its
Major Trade Partners for the Third Quarter of 1982
Compared to the First Quarter of 1982 (in millions
of riyals)

<u>State</u>	<u>1st Quarter 1982</u>	<u>3rd Quarter 1982</u>	<u>Amount of Change</u>
Japan	13,991	8,265	5,726
United States	- 1,248	-2,107	859
West Germany	- 470	-1,101	631
United Kingdom	1,091	- 361	1,452
France	7,111	3,774	3,337
Italy	2,032	600	1,432

8591

CSO: 4404/201

SYRIA

INFORMATION MINISTER ON CHALLENGES TO ARAB WORLD

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 308, 15 Jan 83 pp 8-10

[Article by Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad: "The Arab Nation Faces an Inner Challenge and External Challenge"]

[Text] There are many political signs surfacing in official Arab action at the present time.

Some of these signs exist in themselves as a timely reaction to some event taking place or some disaster that has occurred while others are merely an indication of deep roots which appear to us in various shapes and around which different positions take shape with solutions difficult and around which dialogue and debate swirls. However the result is always a wide gulf which takes hold of the dialogue and debates and many times takes over the dialogue with the parties to that dialogue who raise what they ought not to.

It is self evident that the divided nation which suffers from the oppression of occupation is facing problems and is the victim of differing degrees of gravity. However, the worst trial of the Arab nation in its difficult time is the division of opinion within it, the wavering concern, the contradictory judgements and the immersion in its own maladies with a consequent inability to take any effective action to cope with events and lead the tide of resistance itself within the regions of the Arab nation and, on a pan-Arab scale, through a unified stance and joint action to counter the external challenge.

If we could draw a distinction between what is incidental to Arab life and what is a genuine part of this life, we would be moving to cope with "the difficult time" with a clear perspective of the "Arab self" and a certain recognition of the crisis facing it, whether the crisis is that of territorial occupation, a threat to a pan-Arab existence, protection of natural resources of preservation of independence. To put it directly, simplifying the issue prompts us to state that is facing our Arab at the present stage is a totality of interaction with everything that has gone before.

The inner crisis has produced a weakness in our ability to move and the geographic division placed limitations on the horizons of the rulers. They slept in the face of danger and they were silent in the face of wrongs and

the Zionist occupation forces benefitted from this division and that inner crisis and so defined the shape of the existing struggle between it and the "Arabs" right up to this moment. The result was official Arab action affected by the events, hesitant and even contradictory in its approach to countering them, at times despairing while looking to the future and falling apart at the first lapse.

The key thing in the life of a person, as in the life of the nation, is that a sick man does not have the strength to carry a banner, not to mention a sword, and if he does so while ill, he is even less able to maintain the banner or strike with the sword.

The [Arab] nation which is mangled by its illnesses, groping from the standpoint of ideology and behavior, and confused in its concepts with an intermingling of ideas, can be heard to mutter but one does not see it acting. It handles its affairs like an automaton, mere movement regardless of the nature or direction of this movement.

The division of the Arab homeland was not only a geographic partition but added to it was a partition in social and political systems and a differing understanding of the movement of history and its requirements. What had been one in the one nation in states and leadership became many countries which are still siring new emirates and regions and leaderships, each of which claims to be the essence and the beginning and end of the quest.

Preservation of the new borders of the Arab countries has not become the central concern of their leaders who spare no sacrifice for this.

There came about something expressing a regional structure to be complemented by pan-Arab action and working to link up with it. It gave a firm foundation to regional bases which took no pan-Arab aspect into consideration. In fact, I might go so far as to say that they were regional bases arising from concepts of incompatibility and confrontation with the advocates of pan-Arabism and pan-Arab integration.

With our nation, the one flag was transformed into flags and banners jostling one another and the one Arab anthem turned into anthems appealing to us to be prepared to fight to preserve each of them, as if the Arabs had become diverse Arabs and nations.

So regionalism began through geographic partition and the regional structure, followed by feelings of inflated self-importance by the rulers of the regions. What had been known and confirmed to the Arabs while they were struggling for liberation from foreign domination and eliminating the mini-states which had been created was now forgotten and the sites of confrontation altered.

A key principle of the secret movement which sprang up in the Levant during the Ottoman occupation was the unity of the Levant as a step on the road to the unity of the Arab world. The anti-colonialist resistance movements of the African Arabs were closely tied in ideology and practice with the Arab East and the ideas of unity and liberation that were boiling up there.

The sweeping majority of the constitutions of the regions which were liberated reaffirmed the fact this or that region constituted a part of a larger people and belonged to a greater homeland and believed in one Arab nation.

It was this Arab climate that permitted the spread of the pan-Arab appeal to bring into being the one state of the Arab nation and that subsequently made it possible to establish one state from the Syrian and Arab regions. In their multitude of regions, the Arabs felt that what had been merely a theory had come into being. In the light of this discovery, the discovery of the fact of unity as something tangible and always achievable, "organized efforts began on the part of the Arab rulers with pre-planning and in the light of the new, totally altered concepts of the pan-Arab appeal to protect the regional framework and to defend its illnesses.

In this climate and in the light of those perceptions, the imperialist scheme, which had created the division and demarcated its regional boundaries, began to grow active and to apply pressure and to pursue the task of partition and ideological and practical sabotage in the regions of the homeland. The sponsors of the imperialist scheme were always prepared to engage in military intervention if necessary to prevent any possible change in the map of the Arab homeland.

And they intervened, they intervened militarily several times, and never stopped their political, economic and cultural intervention.

They created division and mobilized their forces to protect it. They partitioned Syria and created the "state of Israel" with one primary objective of its creation being to prevent the reunification of Syria and to cut it off from Egypt and the other regions of the Arab Magreb.

In confronting Israel and its allies, the official Arab position used to reaffirm constantly the nature of the pan-Arab confrontation and continuously push for joint Arab action, for the unity of the Arabs and the liberation of all of Palestine.

However, what are things like now? How have the centers of confrontation been altered? The advocacy of Arab unity is now viewed as a regional extension from one region to another and an envelopment of one region by another.

The battle for the liberation of Palestine is still shrinking in the eyes of the rulers until today it has become a call for peace with Israel on its terms, even if it means the occupation of all of Palestine and other parts of Arab territory and even if it means political, economic and military domination of the Arab homeland.

The advocates of liberation and resistance in the eyes of the Arab rulers are now "layers of "oneupmanship" who have strayed from the unanimity which ought to be revived. As for confrontation with the constant enemies, the enemies who partitioned the homeland and created the state of Israel in the

heart of this homeland, it is now the slogan of those who are now described as bidders for support, short-sighted, irresponsible and unrealistic and so on through a litany of descriptions current throughout the Arab scene.

What is the point behind citing these notable facts which we have raised in a general fashion and have given a priority in citing over others of no less importance?

The point, the conclusion, the essence of the matter is that it is the inner challenge of the Arab nation and going beyond this defiance to the inner triumph within the boundaries of the homeland which will really put the Arabs on the threshold of victory in confronting the external challenge.

This inner challenge is a defiance of the regionalism which prevails in both ideology and action, a defiance of division and its illnesses and a defiance of the blindness which does not prompt the rulers of the Arabs to defend, if only through an instinctive reaction, their threatened pan-Arab existence.

The fragmentation has resulted in weakness and differing views and weakness is the ideal condition for the triumph of the external challenge and its tyranny. So what if we add to it the differing views and the lack of honorable positions which should be present in countering the occupations with its savagery, racism and escalating desires for expansion and hegemony?

Peoples make their history but peoples cannot make their history while afflicted with poverty, illness, ignorance and blindness.

Peoples begin to make their history, to write with their free will and pure blood, when they begin to remedy the manifestations of weakness and signs of impotence in their bodies. Weakness does not produce strength and a weak position does not lead to an honorable position nor does it protect territory, preserve an existence and maintain honor.

Here lies the secret of what is going on now in the Arab homeland and an explanation of what point things have reached, a point where the sites of confrontation changes, delusion prevailed and "some of us" ended up in positions in common with Israel and those were found who would protect it, support it and to call upon the rest of the Arabs to emulate it, and a point where "high treason" as defined by the constitutions of all regions of the homeland is now merely a point of view, a mere judgement not deserving any reaction, any action.

Official Arab action is therefore now pervaded by the slogans of the regionalists and it is impossible to bring together the Arab rulers to counter an Israeli invasion which reached an occupied Arab capital. Even were the invasion to stop, more than 30,000 Arab citizens have been killed. The American administration formulated its program to exploit its joint invasion with Israel and the countries of the Arab League were able to get together and... and propose a peace plan! Weakness does not produce strength. This is a self evident fact. However, weakness produces further weakness and creates a new breakdown which is added to what preceded it. Regionalism

...the ruler of the state... with the attainment of
...the ruler of the state... with the process
...the ruler of the state... it reaches the stage
...the ruler of the state... the ruler becomes
...the ruler of the state... is incorporated into the
...the ruler of the state... the stage where the ruler
...the ruler of the state... the authority to run the
...the ruler of the state... until the
...the ruler of the state... the ruler.

...that Egypt moved into the
...will happen here or there:
...the nation is the nation.

...the regionalism of
...to become the
...the national family.

A series of... of microbes
...harming the
...and pan-Arab existence.

...the will of the nation,
...its countries.

...another matter.

...all the Arabs the
...convened the 1974
...created on their
...and a belief in
...Palestine and
...it was
...the Liberationist October war
...international recognition
...the Palestine cause.

...with no division or unilateral
...the ruler of Egypt
...agreed to a
...the crimes of high
...Egyptian war, that
...to act in the best
...and the Arabs

...Arab nation, the ruler
...Arab worry.
...with Israel, he
...and shattered away its
...nation.

He started from a regional basis and damaged the interests of the region, he betrayed his cause and abandoned his Arab nation, diverging from its will and committing the crimes of high treason.

From the ruler of Egypt to others like him...

The one premise leads to a common result: the unity of the cause which should experience no fragmentation or unilateral solutions is transformed into mere points of view which should be independently judged or which should emulate the act of the ruler of Egypt. For this emulation to take place, the Arabs had to erase what they have written about the ruler of Egypt, forget what they had said and disregard what was proven to them with absolute, concrete evidence. They began to disseminate an appeal "for a return" to Egypt because the decisions adopted toward its regime were mistaken and unfair: "Arabs, go to Egypt even with its commitment toward Israel and Israel's terms fettering it."

To say that peace with Israel is a point of view! what could be higher treason on the constitutions of the Arab countries. A point of view!!! It is an independent judgement in which God will reward the proper judges!

The regional tumor begins to grow and become embellished for its backsliding proponent and justify his impotence and negligence. There can be only one result" the tumor sets into its host and kills him.

The proponents of regionalism and "the holy entity" look at themselves and see weakness, impotence and despair about the future and, consequently, their efforts are directed toward trying to sow despair and impose impotence on their countries. The relaxation starts with the impotence and despair and ends in high treason. The regionalists do not recognize the dangers of their situation until they find themselves tangled in the morass of their sin.

When they see where they are, only the potential of the country emerges and the feeling of impotence is the first thought that governs their behavior. If they are warned that the potential of the country would be strengthened and made more effective were it added to the potential of other countries, if they hear this welcome advocate of the strength of unity, they frown and turn their backs and harbor a grudge.

The result is that the "country" of which they are so proud is surrounded and its potential lost. Then the divergence of views does its work and the will for joint Arab action is paralyzed and ideas which threaten the fences of regionalism, the ideas of pan-Arab action, are earnestly and resolutely fought.

Our nation has a long history and has had many experiences, in strength as well as in inner weakness.

It has fought and it has been victorious when the strong right arms of men who believe in a single principle raise the Arab, Islamic banner and when

there was a single resolution and a single will. The enemies of that era were the strongest empires which the Arabs and their principles faced, the Persian and Roman empires. This was the case until views diverged and the rulers of Egypt went their own way in their provinces and the invaders returned to nibble away one Arab piece of land after another.

The voices of the captives did not reach the ears of the rulers.

The alarm reached the ruler of Baghdad, al-Mustakfi Billah, that the Tatars were approaching. He responded: "Baghdad is enough for me," and continued to echo this until Baghdad was decimated and he, his family and his entourage were killed. The same thing occurred elsewhere later, in Spain. The rulers and their sons divided up the inheritance and each were independent in a province which fought with the sister provinces. They sought help from their enemies in Castille and Aragon in order to be victorious over their brothers as if one can be victorious over his brother. One can be victorious with his brother and for his brother but never over his brother. Their strongholds began to fall one after the other until their last kingdom in Granada was wiped out.

The Zionist threat stretches through Arab geography. It wants to change its map and to rewrite the history of the Arabs in line with the interests of the invaders and their allies.

However, the Arab reaction is still inarticulate. How can the regionalist rulers ward off the invasion and hold off the invaders while each is still clinging to his plot of ground, swallowing everything said to him by his enemies and not believing the reality of the threat and consequently refusing to move to protect the people and territory of his country? How can he do this while he is enthusiastically fabricating problems and by involving himself in disagreements with the rest of his brothers only to get absorbed in these bickerings and be unable to do what is dictated by the need to safeguard the threatened pan-Arab existence and his own regional existence which is threatened by the greater threat to the pan-Arab existence?

The Arab rulers began by advocating the unity of the Arab nation and building its one state and today have ended by sanctifying the unity of the entity.

They have huddled in their countries, each fighting the other. They have made it easy for the Israeli occupation forces to expand outwards, the latest expansion being an attempt to gobble up Lebanon and as much of its territory as possible militarily and politically. Lebanon was officially one of the most notorious of the Arab countries for flying the banner of being a separate entity and for making claims of going it alone, being discriminating and not getting involved in the Arabs' problems and pan-Arab battles. Did Lebanon's advocacy of being a holy entity protect it and ward off the invasion forces or was its situation as part of its social and political structure a reason that attracted the invasion of its territory? The future of the Arab homeland is now being written.

Where is the Arab word? Where is the Arab pen that is writing the pages of this future?

The United States wants to wreck the Arabs' breastplate and to dominate their capabilities and is still doing all this with the approval of this or that ruler. The United States wants Israel, its strategic ally and partner in each invasion, to have military, political and economic domination over the future of the Arab homeland and, in fact, is helping it in an attempt to change the social and human structure.

It is doing all that and then is putting pressure on the Arabs to go to the negotiating table with Israel to get the terms for capitulation.

In this prevailing climate in the Arab homeland, feelings of despair and impotence on the part of the Arab rulers are being exploited to get them to raise their hands in surrender to an unknown fate.

The leaders of Israel say that their borders lie where the Israeli tanks have reached and the Arab rulers are told: Recognize Israel.

What borders are to be recognized: the borders of 1948, 1956, 1967, or 1982 or the political borders expressed by the leaders of Israel when they say that our borders are where our tanks have reached and where we establish normal relations with all Arab countries?

They understand normal relations as a takeover of the Arab will and an exploitation of everything they have. In return for that, the Arab people is to be given a chance to work in the service of the imperialist-Zionist economy.

Everything is quite clear with regard to what is wanted of our homeland.

Will the future of the Arabs be written in Hebrew or Arabic letters? It is a fateful choice.

What the Arab people are choosing is their destiny and it is what they are fighting for in ideas and deeds.

People make their history. Action starts with curing their own illnesses. There are signs in the homeland and in the homeland there are genuine forces raising and defending the banner of the Arab future.

The clear, powerful voice which is leading the way to the future comes today with a firm will from Syria.

Syria says: The Arabs must stand in defiance and work together. We want Arab solidarity as a force for us with which to combat the invasion forces and to liberate our territory.

We want joint Arab action. We want solidarity in a common destiny so that our future will not be written in non-Arabic letters and with a non-Arab will.

The warning of the past cried out that the Tatars were coming.

The warning of the present cries out in full voice that the Zionist threat is growing and expanding, that a selection of a fate is still in our hands, that all our strength is in our unity and that regionalism will destroy us all.

Syria says: My choice is the choice of the Arab people, the choice of an Arab future for which I am preparing and struggling and no power can make me give up or diverge from my principles and goals.

Is there anyone to hear the warning voice, to shudder in excitement and lift a sharp sword in his hand?

Peoples make their history and the future is always dependent on those who fight for it.

The peoples who make their history begin by getting themselves ready to assume their own strength and to go into the trenches to express their free, independent and honorable will.

We, in a difficult position and in a difficult time, have only two choices; not three:

Either acceptance of the challenge and continuation of the struggle.

Or giving up territory, honor and the future and accepting surrender with its humiliation and shame.

If we, as a nation, accept the challenge with Syria and continue the struggle, let us begin by coping with our inner challenge, let us express our will freely and let our future be what we make it with our will and energies.

The Arab banner then will not fall and Arab history will be written only by Arab free will and only in the illustrious Arabic letters.

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CSO: 4404/211

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS; KESHTMAND SPEAKS

LD080637 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Kabul, Feb 7, BAKHTAR--The periodical plenary session of the Council of Ministers was held here today under the chairmanship of Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of Politburo of PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

In his opening speech Keshtmand said that the growth and consolidation of the revolutionary process in our country demands from us devotion, sacrifice, consistence, indefatigableness, initiative and organization, love and overwhelming interest in the correct and rapid fulfillment of duties.

Keshtmand said, in today's session we are discussing some of the country's vitally important economic and social problems and will take requisite decisions, but a mere deliberation of problems and taking some decisions are not enough. What is important, he stressed, is to timely and accurately implement the decisions.

Then Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of electric energy, reported on the conditions of utilization and expansion of electric energy and necessary measures for the strengthening and maintenance of construction organizations of that ministry.

According to the agenda, 'Abdol Ghaifar Lakanwal, minister of agriculture and land reforms reported on the implementation of the [word indistinct] cultivation campaign for the current year and the operational plan of the spring of 1362, (begins March 21, 1983) improvement of production and fixing the purchasing price of cotton and sugar beet.

'Abdol Wahab Safi, minister of justice and attorney general of the DRA reported on the promulgation of laws, regulations and their addendums.

About the issues debated in the session specific and practical resolutions were unanimously adopted.

In his closing speech, Keshtmand, chairman of the council of ministers, evaluated the reports, the issues and the resolutions of the session.

Considering the question of electric energy in the DRA as a very important and urgent issue Keshtmand said that the PDPA and the DRA government attach great importance to the task of growth and increasing of electric energy in the country towards the ensuring of the peoples' living and economy.

Keshtmand elaborated that in accord with the proposal of the Council of Ministers and reiteration of the PDPA CC Politburo the second gas turbine plant with a capacity of 42 megawatts will be purchased and installed soon in Kabul.

The feasibility studies for the construction of two great hydropower structures under the names of second and third Sorobee will soon be completed. The Soviet Union would render great economic and technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for the construction of these structures.

Soltan Ali Keshtmand added: It is worth mentioning that the Soviet Union has had so far the greatest share in raising the production of electric energy in Afghanistan. As far as the future is concerned the Soviet Union has also shown preparedness for the establishment of large energy structures in the DRA.

Great potentialities exist for the creation of large hydropower stations, S.A. Keshtmand stressed. Parallel to the all-sided growth of the economy and the expansion of the revolutionary process in the country, these potentialities would be used in the interest of the economic development and improvement in the life of people in the process of the construction of a new society he pointed out.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA regarding the status of agriculture and livestock breeding in the DRA said: Agriculture and livestock breeding is a major source of the national production, the manpower employment and the foreign trade. The relative share of agricultural and livestock productions in the gross national product is over 60 percent. This is why the PDPA and the government of the DRA are giving permanent and special attention to the growth and expansion of agriculture and livestock and are taking effective measures for the better conditions of work and living of the peasants who form the greatest portion of the working population of the country.

Regarding the promulgation of laws and regulations forever further instituting the democratic legality, Soltan Ali Keshtmand said: The law on the preparation, formulation and approval of the budget of the DRA which was endorsed in today's meeting has a special importance. In this law, the authority and obligation of the ministries and the departments concerned in respect of the use of the state budget and that of its allotments and payments are strictly defined. In view of this law, a budgetary commission will be set up by the Revolutionary Council of the DRA for a thorough study of the state budget.

At the end of the session, S.A. Mesurman added that those issues and subjects which have special importance in the social and economic spheres of Afghanistan were studied today and important decisions were made about them. But what is more important is to put them into effect.

CSO: 4600/383

SOLDIERS EXPRESS VIEWS ON WAR

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6, 8 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] Loyalty to Islam, Saur Revolution

This time, the Kabul New Times reporter visited the eighth security zone of the Kabul city and spoke to soldiers from this unit.

On the way he also spoke to a soldier safeguarding one of the state institutions. This man showed high morale.

He introduced himself as Ghulam Rabani and in a very polite and humanitarian way responded to the questions he was asked.

"Before joining the sacred military service, I have been working in the technical services department of the mining and geological survey of the Mines and Industries Ministry as a technical official. I voluntarily joined the ranks of the country's defence forces to safeguard the revolution against the domestic and foreign enemies. I took this decision two years ago, which I feel is the duty of every patriotic citizen of our country," he stressed.

"After the military training", he went on, "in the units of the Armed forces, fighting shoulder to shoulder with other zealous soldiers of the security command of the Kabul province, I participated in several battle operations in Logar, Paghman, Chake Wardak and other places, fought against the counter-revolutionary gangs and returned successfully to our quarters."

"Defending the gains of the Saur Revolution is our historical mission. With the victory of the Saur Revolution and its new and evolutionary phase, the toiling and patriotic people of Afghanistan, are heroically defending the nation and the revolution under the leadership of the PDPA and the DRA Government", he added.

"The vast masses of our homeland, among them the militant and patriotic youth of the country, at this historical moment feel it their great and social task to

safeguard the gains of the national democratic revolution. Their idealism will be recorded in the pages of history. That is why, with every passing day we are witness to the rapid and further consolidation of our toiling people in the ranks of the revolution defenders, to ensure peace and security throughout the country. Only a few days ago, many people from Herat joined the defence forces."

Many facilities are being provided to soldiers by the revolutionary state in their units, he said.

"We draw a salary of Afs 3,000 every month. Radios, televisions, newspapers, magazines, various kinds of political, social and economical and artistic facilities are also provided. Books are also provided.

In their leisure time, soldiers can play chess, carrom and other games and lead a happy life."

In two years and several months, we have been going to different battle-fronts several times a month for annihilating the counter-revolution. By using high military tactics we have decisively crushed the enemies. By extending and intensifying the smash-

ing blows dealt at the the gangs of the counter revolution, we have eliminated a large number of them and recovered a large quantity of ammunitions from them. These are great wins for us soldiers", he noted.

His term of military service will be completed and he will be demobbed soon but he says he will never cut his links with the real patriots. Along with his other affairs, he will help preserve and defend the land and the revolution.

He added, "our revolution is rightful. Our revolution has a bright and blossoming future. I have seen hundreds of inhuman actions of the counter-revolution in the fronts. Their actions are all against the sacred religion of Islam. I, by perceiving this reality, feel obliged to acquaint my countrymen with these deeds and also with the beneficial objectives of the revolution, its usefulness and reality.

My mission will be to tell people who don't know, of the treacherous deeds of the counter-revolutionaries as well as the so-called de-

fenders of the Islam, after I am demobbed.

At the end he said, "The reactionary forces and the imperialist circles, headed by American imperialism, who have lost their plunderous interests here as a result of the consolidation of the national and democratic revolution in our country, by sending terrorists and looters have shamelessly tried to create obstacles in the path of the growth of our society and strengthen the revolution. The lackeys of imperialism commit extremely ugly crimes and want, by creating terror and fear to disrupt the tranquil life of our people and provide opportunities for the poisonous propaganda of their masters' mass media."

"But", he noted, "the people of Afghanistan are fed up with the actions of the terrorists, criminals, looters and traitors bands and are always expressing their intensive hatred towards them and are pledging all-round readiness and devotion towards safeguarding the revolutionary changes of the country."

— A Staff Reporter

Elimination of Enemies

"I will not lay down my arms till the complete elimination of the enemies. The revolutionary transformations of our society in diverse fields of life is for the benefit of the vast masses of our territory and are continuing successfully. The people of Afghanistan, under the leadership of the party and the revolutionary state, are engaged in building a new progressive and flourishing society. The exploitative and reactionary circles and forces, who can not bear these basic transformations and see it in contradiction with their ominous and inhuman ignorances and objectives, have launched provocative and propagandist actions, conspiracies and have even directly intervened in the internal affairs of our free, independent and revolutionary country. They want to prevent the process of rejuvenation of our society and consolidation of the basis of our national democratic revolution.

"Our brave people and militant youth should act against the expectations of the devil forces and world-devouring imperialism and achieve their tasks and great national, historical and revolutionary mission in this critical moment of history. They should safeguard their independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the gains of the Saur Revolution and join the ranks of the industrious armed and security forces. In this way,

they can accomplish valorous deeds and clean the homeland of evil. These evil forces in no way, will be able to achieve their evil plots and conspiracies. The Saur Revolution, and especially its new and evolutionary phase, enjoys full and decisive support of all the toilers and national and democratic forces of our homeland and is irreversible. Our enemies can not receive any thing else but disgrace. Our compatriots, the brave and patriotic youth of our homeland, preparing for defending the gains of their national and democratic revolution, are dealing crushing and smashing blows to the enemies of the homeland and the revolution and are registering their manliness in the pages of the contemporary history of our proud homeland.

"Our people believe that the ranks of the armed and security forces are the best centres for demonstrating their valour and militancy toward the homeland and the revolution.

Increasing its strength is one of the urgent and historical tasks of our people. That is why they are consolidating around the ranks of the armed and security forces as to further strengthen and support the trenches of the defence of the homeland and the revolution." Kabul New Times was told by a soldier of the ninth security zone Mohammad Kabin.

Kabir is a serious but calm and polite man, who represented the militant youth.

Asked about what motivated him to join the ranks of the security forces, he said, "Twentytwo months ago I joined the service in the ranks of the security forces and in this period, I have only fruitful memories. Today the soldiers in their units enjoy a tranquil life as at their homes. All the necessary facilities of daily life have been provided to them. The soldiers don't feel any shortage in their life and they are being permitted to visit their families once a week and this is a very good opportunity for the soldiers."

Kabir said, he joined the military service voluntarily in the ninth security zone. At the beginning, he was on duty at the security post of the thermal power station at the Hoodkhel area. He served for sometime at the Deh Sabz district and at present his service is in the institutions of the zone.

One night a week he said "I go home and am totally satisfied with my job and life in the unit. I will not lay down my arms till the complete elimination of the enemies of the revolution and people and the best memory of a soldier is his success in his job", he said.

He added, "Our revolution is righteous and safeguarding its gains is our historical mission. Struggle against the enemies is the national responsibility of our sensitive and patriotic countrymen. Our revolution has a blossoming future, as our people see it. In the light of the glorious Saur Revolution, especially after its new and evolutionary phase, basic and all-round transformations have appeared in the social, economical, political and cultural life of our society for the benefit of the toiling masses. Our revolutionary state", he said, "takes valuable and effective strides for the well-being and tranquillity of our people be-

cause our people are peace-loving and patriotic and the humanitarian and peaceful status of our state testifies to our claim".

At the end he said, "A number of our youth who have been deceived by the lies and propaganda of our enemies, we are telling them to join the ranks of the armed and the security forces and defend the national honours. They should struggle shoulder-to-shoulder with their other brethren and achieve their mission in crushing the looters and counter-revolution who disrupt our peaceful life".

"Our people have well known the criminal actions of the terrorist bands, looters and murderers, and express their intensive hate against the counter-revolution all the time. By perceiving these actions of the counter-revolutionary elements, our people are always expressing readiness and all round devotions for safeguarding the revolutionary changes in the country with every passing day", he stressed.

POLITBURO MEMBER URGES UNITY CALL TO PASHTOON PEOPLE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5, 6, 7, 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Speeches by Dr Najibullah, member of Politburo of PDPA Central Committee]

[Text] Conciliation Urged

KABUL, February 5 (Ba-1 (Bakhtar))-- Dr Najibullah member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, in a message to the Pashtoon tribes and nationalities, has thanked all those Pashtoon elders, clergymen and youth who have shown preparedness and are making an effort to bring peace and prosperity to their country.

On behalf of the PDPA CC and the Government, he once again assured them in the message that whatever has been promised by Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC and President of the RC by the CC, the National Fatherland Front and the Government in respect of the return of exiles, in respect of holding jirgahs, assemblies and traditional and civilisation, was fulfilled in the past.

And we stand firm in fulfilling our promises now and we will do so in future," he added.

He said that the Government would honour in letter and spirit all the declarations, messages and statements addressed to the Pashtoon tribes and nationalities in this respect "emanating from the well-thoughtout decisions of the PDPA and the revolutionary Government of the DRA."

"It must be added to whatever has been said already that we have come to know that the Afghan elders, brothers and sisters, wherever they are and whoever they may be, are prepared for talks and discussions with the Government of the DRA in accordance with our prevailing customs, traditions and our national history," he said.

He declared: "The DRA appreciates and attaches great value to the attention, determination and co-operation of Afghans living abroad in this respect and is ready for even greater co-operation with them."

"Let us practically move ahead with goodwill on this path which is the path of glories and honour of our national history, the path of peace and the path of future prosperity and progress of Afghanistan", he said.

He recalled that the Afghans have foiled thrice the colonial plans of the greatest colonial power of Britain.

He stressed that, "in the same way, the Afghans must foil today the plans of the notorious imperialism and its agents and not allow them to destroy our country."

He told the Afghans living abroad frankly in this respect that the first

prerequisite for negotiations and talks through jirgahs and national assemblies is the cessation of firing, shooting and fighting. "That is to say, security must be ensured before talks can begin."

He added: "The DRA has accepted and will accept this condition. We also address to all those who want conciliation and peace to stop shooting and firing to ensure security in order to pave the ground for all of us to sit together and explore the ways and means for the building and prosperity of our country."

"The subversive actions of the bandits have led the Pashtoon tribes to de-

pole to roll back the mercenaries camps from the homeland of free tribes.

Assemblies have been held already and decisions made not to allow fighting and plundering in their territory", he noted.

"All this is clear to our brother emigres and displaced persons. This is why most of them wish to return to their homeland but the bandit chiefs do not allow them to return. A great number of armed groups came to Kabul and laid down their arms and others also will come and join us. A great number of armed bands have contacted us and many of them are fighting against the plunderous bands.

Message to Pashtoon People -- Part I

Full text of message to the Pushtoon peoples and tribes read out over the DRA radio-television by Dr Najibullah, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and President of the State Information Services:

In the name of God the Most Merciful and Compassionate.

Brothers and nears and dears

Permit me first of all to thank on behalf of Comrade Bibrak Karmal, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA CC and President

of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and the Central Committee of the PDPA, to all of you who have listened to the words of the leaders of our party and state which in the past months have been beamed to you through broadcasts and messages for the prosperity, progress and wellbeing of the people and the ensuring of peace in your glorious and historical country on the basis of brotherly jirgah in conformity with our sacred beliefs and our favoured customs. You should not only be thanked but respected

and reassured since you have paid attention and considered the messages and the declarations of the party, state and our leaders, have acted in accordance with them and are ready again to act in the same way and have informed us and all other compatriots of your goodwill. We must especially express our deep gratitude to the elders, spiritual leaders and young people who responded to our sincerity and truthfulness have established a contact with us through correspondence and verbal message

whether they have come here or are living abroad and working for the prosperity and happiness of the country and the compatriots.

It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that our brothers wherever they may be reflect deeply on our declarations or messages in a spirit of goodwill and faith and have begun jirgahs, consultations and talks. All of our brothers who are in Afghanistan or are living abroad in camps or

tents or in foreign cities including even those who have been placed in battle positions or are employed by the enemy are now coming to think that if the revolutionary government of Afghanistan wants to hold jirgah why one should avoid participation in such jirgah and why one would proceed along the path of destruction of the country and one's own future and why one should bring agnomy to oneself.

Likewise, the tribal brothers living in the mo-

untainous valleys where jirgahs and mutual consultations constitute an important aspect of life have shown positive reaction to this declaration or decision of ours and seem ready to give any sacrifices in this regard. Even the elders and religious scholars living in the districts have also paid serious heed to this issue. All these are promising prospects for us because in it lies the prosperity and happiness of our country and countrymen and peace and progress of the region.

Part II

Esteemed brothers and kins, there is no doubt that we and you face a great trial. We and you have undertaken and are undergoing many a loss, toil and injury. Our brothers, sisters, daughters, sons, mothers and fathers have been martyred and are being martyred. Besides a number of people are living a life of exile far from their homes and hearths, honour, beliefs, brotherhood and far from their villages, towns and friends. They are thinking day and night about their country. Yet, in this test when we talked about brotherhood and jirgah, they listen to our words and in heart and mind of everyone of them there is a positive response and the positive and valuable results of this process are becoming evermore obvious. This in it-

self is such a glorious spirit and a custom of our nation and people that however great a pride we may take in it, it would still be less. We can say with confidence that God willing, we shall emerge victorious from this ordeal. All of our elders, brothers and sisters will return with honour and dignity to the arms of their family and the country and come together for leading an honourable, happy and proud life in their ancestral land forming a single country, a single nation and a united people. They will convert as they have done in the course of their proud history their inner wounds and injuries and the carries of today into a blossoming flowers for the sake of a brighter future.

God willing that day is not far off because on the one hand the cherished spi-

rit and custom of jirgah and consultation has revived amongst the chivalrous and patriotic Muslim people of our nation and on the other hand, our party and Government are deeply convinced that this constitutes the most adequate part for ensuring prosperity, happiness and peace and are proceeding along that path. That is why I say that henceforth no satanic hand can pollute our house and our brothers.

Patriotic Muslims, friends and brothers,

I once again assure all of you in all responsibility and with authority on behalf of our party and Government that we have stood by firmly in the past, stand by today and will stand in future by whatever has been said in this regard by Comrade Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC, by the party, the

national fatherland front and the Government. All declarations, messages and statements which we have addressed to you in this regard originate from the conscious decisions of our party and the revolutionary state and will remain as the document of the glittering history of the nations, we will abide by these to the letter and will endeavour to the utmost to put them in practice.

God willing, Almighty will make us come out with pride before the nation and the history. Likewise, in addition to whatever we have said so far we also say to you, elders and seniors of the nation, brothers and sisters wherever you may be and whoever you may be, who as we have come to know are ready for talks with us for the prosperity of your country in conformity with our beliefs, customs and national history that we pay greater respect and esteem than expected by you to your attention, will and readiness. Should we act otherwise we will be dishonoured before our co-

nscience, belief, history and yourselves. Then come, let us embark on this path, a path of glories and precedents of our national history, a path of our present day peace and prosperity and of progress and happiness of future. Let us embark on this path with goodwill, courage boldness and Afghan chivalry and make our country prosperous. The way we foiled three times in the past the extensive colonial plans of the greatest colonial power, that is, Britain, in the same way let us foil today this plan of world notorious imperialism and their agents who want to make us fight against each other and to destroy our country and brothers and thus we must earn a new honour in the world for our future.

Dear brothers and sisters, we have both information which is not secret as also information through secret means indicating to us that a number of intellectual figures, political seniors, national and tribal elders, patriotic clergymen and youth are endeavouring

in this direction. A number of our brothers who have left their homes and hearths also have the same inclinations and are making the same endeavours. They are in direct or indirect contact with us. We appreciate the efforts and will of all these peoples and assure them every kind of help and assistance.

In this respect we make it explicitly clear that if anyone wants to hold talks through jirgah according to the customs, tradition, and national history, it must be clear for every individual of this nation that the first condition of Jirgah is that it can not be held when firing and shooting goes on. That is to say, first firing and shooting is stopped and then jirgah is held and talks take place. Thus, everyone who today wants to hold jirgah and hold talks should first accept this condition. First firing and fighting must be stopped and security ensured and guaranteed and then the talks will take place.

Part III

We have accepted and will accept this condition. We ask everyone who desires the establishment of goodwill and amity between brothers to come forward, stop shooting ensure peace so that at that time we could sit together like brothers, think of a way for making the country prosperous, pray jointly in the name

of God Almighty for the blossoming of this ancient land in a new environment and a new world and girdle up our loins for this cause. This is the way of Islam, peace and goodwill. This is the path of tradition and the favoured custom of our nation. Let us forge ahead on this path.

It is not a secret to anybody that these handful of miscreants and bandits are unmasked. The Afghan refugees, too, have realized the true nature of their acts and wherever these bandits have gone the people of those places too have come to realize the real nature of their actions and now

know that they are not what they portray themselves to be. All people have now seen with their own eyes what their American and imperialist 'Islamic' is and how in the name of a 'jihad' (crusade) they carry out banditry, plunder and tyranny and aggression.

Today everyone says that the 'jihad' was that very 'jihad' which the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) waged in the way of God, fastening a stone to his stomach during the 'jihad,' and one 'jihad' is that of the Muslims and bandits who on the one hand, have filled their pockets with money in the name of refugees and on the other hand have added to the deposits of the Western banks. They consider this a good thing—but for whom? For those Muslim and poor Afghans, to whom someone who is not interested in fighting the 'jihad' but likes to live a life of luxury in golden palaces, gives weapons and Western currency and sends for fratricide and destruction of his own ancestral land?

There is a Pustoo proverb which says "When the moon shines, everyone can see." If you go and see what the living standards of the leaders of the bandits are and in what manner poverty, toil and humiliation and myriad of other pains the rest of the refugees are living. These accursed peo-

ple who have earned notoriety for themselves are now out to defame the Afghan and Islamic glories and sacred ideals. The companions of the Prophet waged a 'jihad' in line with the sayings and traditions of the Prophet. When some companion was in a near death stage and some other companion thirsty, the dying companion would give water to the thirsty one and would himself be martyred. This is Islam. This is 'jihad'. It is not 'jihad' when, in the name of refugees, a handful of people pocket all kind of aid and assistance and the refugees themselves are fed only the ninth of a "jihad" and false propaganda.

The concern of the refugee brothers lies in that the leaders of the bandits pit them against the local people and involve them in local politics. This action is so hazardous that only the avowed enemies of Afghanistan, Islam and this region can be happy with this and benefit from this. All others suffer due to this. If this practice of bandits continues, the consequences to follow are obvious.

These bandits will soon take refuge in Western countries with their masters but they will involve the patriotic refugees in such a conflict that they would find it difficult to get out of it.

One consequence of the actions of the bandits is that all Pashtoon tribes have decided that the ca-

mps of bandits be removed from the land of the free tribes. Already such 'jirgahs' have begun among the tribes and they will not allow on their soil anyone to bring weapons, create threats or carry out plunders.

KNOWN FACTS

All these facts are known to our refugees and displaced brothers. That is why many of these brothers are returning towards their country. But the bandits will not permit their return.

A large number of the armed groups came and surrendered their arms. Others, too, are coming and joining with us. A great number of armed groups are in touch with us and a great number are fighting against the predatory bands.

God willing, this positive change will proceed ahead. That is to say, we have kept open our arms in fraternity. We invite our brothers, we would talk with them, hold 'jirgahs' with them. We are ready to console our aggrieved brothers, dress the wounds of the wounded brothers and wipe out the tears of our displaced mothers and sisters. We are proceeding ahead in this direction because we want to free them from the clutches of the muscraons and imperialism, from which they themselves want to free themselves. Otherwise, the revolutionary state is fully prepared and determined to do

away with all miscreants. If they do not understand or do not correct themselves, all the people of the world and our refugee compatriots and friends would see that they would be corrected in such a way that it will be a lesson for all those who engage in any mischief in the world. Yes, sir, the "contorted face" needs a fist to be set right."

Esteemed friend, I must talk frankly here about another problem. And the one whom I am addressing must pay deep attention to it. In the history of nation and nationalities especially in conditions of revolution, many things are not said repeatedly. These are said only once. If someone wants to change himself, it is well and good and he will benefit from it. If someone has not been endowed with wisdom by God and does not pay heed, he will suffer for the misdeed of his foolishness. All the people of the world know and even the imperialists know it that those Afghan people who have been displaced from their country are not miscreants and have not taken up arms against their country, history, knowledge and belief. Neither are they plundering with the money, weapons and the guidance of the historical and class enemies of Afghanistan and the abettment of mentors and agents of these enemies, their own houses and those of brothers, or destroying the mosques or committing highway robberies or murders of their own fathers, brothers and sons. All these acts are being done by a

handful miscreants. They, too, are committing acts for their personal benefits or for serving and being loyal to their old and new masters. It must be said to these miscreants: "You who have become so stained and polluted and can not free yourself from the clutches of your American, Chinese and other masters, must then not mete out such tyranny and injustice to your country, honour and motherland and your own future and the future of the nation and the future generation for getting some temporary benefit and appeasing your colonial masters. In this respect, we say to those brothers who are abroad or in the country, "These miscreants are making you an object of the deals and trailing. You have seen all the misdeeds of these miscreants and recognised them very well."

Therefore, brothers, you must also tell them that they should stop mischief and trouble and find some other pretext for fulfilling their desires through their desires and, in any case, stop damaging this united country and nation. If they listen to you, it would be good. Otherwise you should leave them and place them at the disposal of the historical popular and decisive force of the revolution.

In that case, whatever they do, you will not be blamed for that, let them relegate themselves to the dust of history where they themselves want to go.

Dear illustrious brother,

Can we not take a lesson from what has happened and what is happening. Can the developments, which are taking place in the world and around us not open our eyes? We are convinced that we and you all have taken a lesson from all these. And these conditions and circumstances have opened the eyes of every inhabitant of our nation. Especially all those brothers, peoples and masses who have been deceived and become displaced do not want to see or tolerate this situation. The falsehood is now clear to them. They can also see the ultimate result of the actions of the historical enemies of ours who are dragging this country and nation towards destruction.

That is why they want to forestall such a development. In this respect, greater responsibility lies with those intellectuals, spiritualists, elders, and political personalities who know all these problems but do not want to realise them. We say to these brothers that, in this issue in which lies the good of the country and nation, the good of yourself, this country and this nation does not belong only to us or only to you. This is our and your common property. Therefore, let all of us desire the good of the nation because in it lies the good of all of us. Keep in mind that, if the condition becomes very critical and there is unrest and the enemies, the agents and selfish people becloud the surroundings, still it is not too late and the opportunity is still there. Where is a will there is a way.

BANK CENTRALIZATION DESIGNED TO PROMOTE PROGRESS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 2 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] Coordination of Services

Management of the activities of banks and establishments of a national and progressive order of banks are among economic duties of the PDPA, which have been mentioned in the Programme of Action of the party.

Banking activity has a history of 50 years in the country. But, before the victory of the Saur Revolution, the banks were the places of expansion of comprador activity, consolidation of the Private Sector and bureaucratic abuses.

After the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary phase for the first time in the history of our country, the objective and practical context changed as, in the framework of national-democratic economy, the economic and financial policy of the state in the interest of the toilers relies upon scientific principles.

Thus, systematic changes in the banking order as a major pillar of economy needed to be brought about. The banking system has a profound role in achieving economic independence in accounting, management of the total economic and financial activity of the government, coordination of credits and other assistances in the various fields of economic life, control and management of money supply, stability of the Afghani's value and consolidation of the currency management.

Centralisation of the banking system is one of the major measures taken in the country which plays an important role through which unity of activity among banks is possible. The leadership of the central bank actively promotes the role and efficiency of the banks in the economic life of our people for the realisation of the national-democratic

transformations in accordance to the state socio-economic development plans.

The leadership and supervision of the central bank over the activities of banks help in directing implementation of the unified scientific and progressive banking policy, harmonization of the banks' activities, management of credit and payment plans, credits of the banks, organised expansion of the banking network all over the country, supervision over the balanced supply of money. They provide facilities for the people's transactions, the sound relations of the banks with the state institutions, control over local markets, management of taxation, balanced distribution of the national income and democratisation of banking methods.

COORDINATION

Thus, the central bank has taken steps for harmonisation of all the activities of the banks and prevention of even undesirable ones. The state has endorsed some regulations like the ones for credits and commission payments by the trade banks, current deposits and periodical savings opening of letters of credit and credit by the mortgage and Construction Funds, the law of currency control is, meanwhile, ready for endorsement.

After the victory of the Saur Revolution, especially after the centralisation of the banking system, priority has been given to the activities of the banks. In accordance with the anti-feudal and anti-imperial nature of the Saur Revolution, and requirements of a balanced growth of the national economy, fundamental transformations have come about.

Assistance of banks to the cooperative and state sectors as the pillars of the new and progressive production relations, along with support for the private sector, are important priorities for the state. The activities of the central bank and sector banks have been directed towards cooperation with the state and cooperative sectors.

Through long and short-term bank credits for various production arenas of the state, for the productive service and consumer cooperatives, participation in investment with the private sector, as a context for growth of the mixed sector through which the private sector can be guided in abiding by the socio-economic development plans of the state, the banking system has direct and practical link with the economic changes in the country.

The sector banks have accomplished services for procuring the currency requirement of the state and

state institutions and distribution of loans and assistance to them. For instance, the activity of the Agriculture Development Bank, in the first place, is to establish agricultural state farms and mechanised stations, and of the Industrial Development Bank to establish small and large state industrial institutions, and the private and mixed sectors and assist the State construction projects.

Moreover, centralisation of the banking system has a role in expansion of trade affairs, strengthening of the state sector in the commerce and provision of facilities for the local tradesmen in the country. In this context, the assistance of Export Promotion Bank is worthy of mention.

The central bank also strives for finding favourable methods to assist exporters and accelerate transactions with the foreign countries. Likewise, through democratisation of the bank's leadership and administration and ensurance of closer ties with the people and encouragement of the people to save by opening current accounts great changes have taken place.

In this connection the role of Agriculture Development Bank in solving the problems of the peasants worth mentioning.

Courtesy: Haqiqate Islamiyeh-e Saur.

Help to Exporters, Importers

In order to support the producers and exporters of different commercial items from the country and the importers of various goods the Pashtany Tejarati Bank (commercial bank) has rendered Afs 151,500,000, loan to them in the first six months of the current Afghan year.

A bank official, disclosing this in an interview to the Kabul New Times said the bank has also granted Afs 3,315 million to the people last year.

"It should be mentioned that the credit loans of the bank during the current year in the field of letters of credits for importing goods requirement of the country, when comparing with the last year, has been increasing and it is hoped that it will be more than the envisaged plan," he said.

The bank, despite loan limitations last year, has offered 815 million or 33 percent more than the plan target of Afs 2,500 million.

About the credit and developmental plans of the bank the official said: "The bank has an allocation of Afs 2,500 million for the current year on the recommendation of the Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank): It has provided good credit facilities to the traders and importers of the country according to plan target and the customers are satisfied with the services and facilities provided them by the Pashtany bank."

Answering a question, he added: "The relations of the Pashtany Tejarati bank with other big banks of the world is based on international principles of banking. The bank can carry the monetary and banking orders of the customers to every nook and corner of the world and the customers can benefit from its services whenever import facilities are requested.

Regarding the number of the savings accounts and deposits last year, the official said, "The current account and disinterested deposits in the bank in 1360, in comparison with the previous year, has increased and amounted to Afs 147,97 million. Similarly, the number of saving accounts in the banks also demonstrated a considerable increase and the total amount has reached Afs 149,999 million which showed an increase of 13,793 saving accounts and a sum of Afs 393,82 million when compared with 1359. In other words, the total number of saving accounts, interested deposits and disinterested deposits and current accounts of the bank in 1360 HS amounted to 172,876 and its estate to Afs 297,742 million which also include the number of monetary current accounts of the customers of the bank."

Talking of prizes for the account holder's lottery for 1360, the official said the prizes for saving accounts of the bank amounted to Afs 965,000. From this, a sum of Afs 743,000 was for the saving accounts in the capital and Afs 222,000 for those in the provinces.

STATISTICS REPORTED FOR LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 8 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] Eradication of illiteracy and gaining all-round progress in education, culture and training of the masses are the main duties of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Accordingly, after the new and evolutionary phase at the Saur Revolution, the Revolutionary Council of the DRA has issued a decree concerning the harmony and coordination of the literacy campaign.

On the basis of this decree, eradication of illiteracy is considered one of the main tasks of the national democratic revolution and all people of the country from ten to 50 years are requested to learn to read and write.

Also, for the realisation of the illiteracy eradication programmes, a directive has been issued for establishment of the state central commission and other provincial commissions for eradication of illiteracy in the country.

In the context of the literacy campaign, it has been planned that this programme is to be completed in the cities by 1987 and in the rural areas by 1990. The youth and the women's organisation are being assigned to take active part in eradicating illiteracy among the youths and women throughout the country.

For the purpose of eradicating illiteracy and in order to prevent possible deviations and errors committed by the terrorist Amin's band who made the people face various tortures, scorns, disdainments and apprehensions, numerous versatile programmes have been drafted and implemented.

Education of women, studies in agricultural cooperatives, off-school literacy courses for children, supplementary studies and follow up programmes are among the envisaged programmes which are worth mentioning. As has been reported in the ninth plenum of the PDPA CC: "...One of the basic objectives is eradication of illiteracy. Revolution should enlighten and endow knowledge to the people...We, for the coordination of this, suggest this way--every literate person should at least work with and teach them from two to five illiterate persons. Endurance and patience is highly needed and demands and tendencies be regarded and pressure tactics should be abstained from."

According to the specified directives of the party and the state, in 1359 (1980), 515,000 pupils in 25,750 courses, in 1360 (1981) 550,000 pupils in 2,575 courses, and in 1361 (1982), 632,500 pupils are enrolled in 1,665 literacy courses all over the country.

After the new and evolutionary phase of the Saur Revolution, totally 1,697,500 students have been taught to read and write in 84,875 courses by 42,437 official and voluntary teachers and 16,618 supervisors. From the total enrollment, 131,880 are girls and women who are taught literacy by 2,416 teachers and 283 supervisors in 6,554 courses.

For the implementation of the literacy campaign, in 1359, a total sum of Afs 114 millions, in 1360 a sum of Afs 114,770,200 and in 1361 the same amount of money have been allocated in the budget. In the three years after the new phase of the revolution, Afs 343,540,400 has been spent on this goal. In the same period, the first, second and third volumes of the literacy course textbooks have been printed in 7,999,18 copies. Likewise, 20,000 copies of the first volume of the off-school elders' books in Pashtu and Dari languages, 2,000 copies of the second and third volume of the off-school youngsters' books, 2,000 copies of the first volume of literacy courses textbook in Uzbek and 91,000 copies of the follow-up pamphlets have been published.

The follow-up materials have been provided for the literate in order to maintain their ability to read and write and further enhance the level of their knowledge. The materials are prepared according to the level of information and authority of the literates.

It is worth mentioning that for the first time, experimental elders' schools in Wazir Akbar Khan Mena and two more in Shahshahid and Mirwais Maidan have been established. In these schools, so far, 1,140 girl students have attended the classes.

(Courtesy: Haquqate Enqlabe Saur).

BRIEFS

WORKERS SENT FOR TRAINING--About (?267) organizations have arranged for workers to go and learn management and guidance to raise the standard of living of the workers in the DRA. About 167 workers have been sent to the friendly countries of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Mongolia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria by the trade union organizations. [GF121804 Kabul in English to South Asia 1000 GMT 12 Feb 83]

USSR EMBASSY RECEPTION--Kabul, 24 Feb, BAKHTAR--A reception was held here last night at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul to mark the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Soviet Red Army. The reception which was hosted by the Soviet military attache was attended by Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo PDPA CC and chairman of the [words indistinct], members of Politburo and secretary of the [word indistinct] Central Committee, members of the Council of Ministers, high-ranking civil and military officials, ambassadors, charge de affairs and military attaches of the friendly countries. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 Feb 83 LD]

CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CREATED--In observance of the resolutions of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA, the civil defense of the fertilizer and power plants of Mazar-e Sharif was officially created on Wednesday. The general (?president) of the local organs of trade, (?power) and administration spoke at the ceremonies on the role and significance of the creation of civil defense. A related source said that 750 employees of the plant have registered in the civil defense of the said plant. A number of workers registered in the civil defense of the plant, during interviews, said: Due to their artificial nature, the counterrevolution has always tried to destroy bridges, highways, mosques, schools, hospitals and institutions and create obstacles in the implementation of the objectives of the April Revolution. But it is the duty and responsibility of each patriotic and (?conscientious) element in particular the effort-making [as heard] workers of the country who render [passage indistinct]. [Text] [GF251304 Kabul in English to South Asia 1000 GMT 25 Feb 83]

CSO: 4600/383

REPORTAGE ON BANGLADESH-EEC PANEL MEETING

EEC Delegation arrives

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Jan 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] A high-powered European Economic Community (EEC) delegation arrived in Dhaka on Friday to attend the Bangladesh-EEC Joint Commission meeting beginning today (Saturday) reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at the airport the leader of the delegation, Mr E. Volpi, said that they were looking forward with keen interest to the discussions with Bangladesh authorities for promotion and development of mutually beneficial relations.

Mr Volpi, who is the Director of Directorate General, External Relations, in the EEC headquarters, read out a prepared statement which said that the Joint Commission, which had first met in 1978, during its current meeting would not only take up trade issues but also cover all aspects of "economic cooperation and aid problems".

Mr. Volpi expressed his satisfaction at the growth of trade between the Common Market and Bangladesh and said EEC imports from Bangladesh during the first eight months of 1982 calendar year were 58 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of the previous year. He hoped the trade deficit would decrease further in the coming years.

He said the Community aid to Bangladesh in the form of project and food aid would be around 50 million dollars annually. "If you add member states' bilateral aid to this, the total envelope is roughly about 400 million dollars", he added.

Mr Volpi, who is heading a 19-member delegation, hoped the visit will be "fruitful" and help further strengthen EEC-Bangladesh relations. A seminar on Generalised System of Preference (GSP) will be held in Dhaka in mid-February, he said.

Delegation Leader Meets Press

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 83 p 12

[Text] The leader of the visiting EEC delegation, Mr Edoardo Volpi, on Sunday described the two-day Bangladesh-EEC Joint Commission meeting as "fruitful" and said the two sides were able to find out new fields of cooperation reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen in Dhaka, Mr Edoardo visualised new avenues for improving further economic relations between Bangladesh and EEC.

He said "We spoke about how we could improve industrial cooperation". Though he did not specify the areas of industrial cooperation, yet he indicated that paper technology and ceramic were the fields where the scope existed for cooperation.

Mr Edoardo pointed out that there was scope for energy saving or better use of energy. He pointed out that EEC had already reduced its oil import by 10 per cent in two years.

Referring to the Bangladesh's exports to EEC he said it did not require payment of customs duty which he added was a good incentive.

Asked if the EEC would increase its aid to Bangladesh, Mr Edoardo said "we may try to make special efforts for your country taking into account our limitation of financial means."

Meanwhile, a joint Press release issued at the end of the two-day meeting of the Bangladesh-EEC Joint Commission said the Commission reviewed a wide spectrum of bilateral cooperation especially in the areas of food aid, project aid, and technical assistance and trade promotion.

The Joint Commission meeting was presided over by Mr AFM Ehsanul Kabir, Secretary, Commerce Division, and the leader of the Bangladesh delegation. The EEC delegation was headed by Mr Edoardo Volpi, Director, Directorate General of External Relations, Commission of the European Communities.

The meeting held in a spirit of cordiality, friendship and complete understanding between the two sides, reviewed the concerned project aid and on-going projects and noted progress in this regard.

New important projects in the agricultural, rural and food sectors were identified for possible financing and these would be studied in the immediate future.

Regarding food aid, the EEC delegation indicated that every consideration would be given to meeting the needs of Bangladesh in this area.

The Joint Commission also discussed ways of initiating new areas of collaboration in the field of industrial cooperation including energy.

A new programme was formulated with a view to promoting the Bangladesh-EEC trade cooperation.

The Commission recalled that all aspects of Bangladesh-EEC relations were being greatly facilitated and enhanced by the opening of the EEC office in Dhaka last year.

Scope for Cooperation

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jan 83 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

The visit of the EEC delegation to Bangladesh came at a time when the government policies and programmes for rejuvenating the economy has been put on an even keel. They have had wide-ranging discussions with officials in various ministries in the city. And such discussions centred on adoption of programmes having feasibility not only in terms of the requirements of this country but also the world at large. As reported, the members of the delegation were basically interested in some fields like paper and ceramic industries. They have however identified new areas of collaboration in some industries including energy.

The leader of the delegation, Mr. Edoardo Volpi, is on record saying that the EEC countries would like to improve cooperation for industrial development. This is considered by the delegation as one of the fundamental factors in economic relations. Countries in the EEC have advanced technology and know-how, and the same is needed for initiating new projects and augmenting the production of existing industrial projects in Bangladesh. But

the prevailing constraints in the shape of inflow of resources have stood in the way of the import of such technology and know-how. Even the comparative advantages in labour cost could not be fully utilized by local or foreign investors also due to unfavourable investment climate of the last decade.

The present government has already initiated policy changes and liberalized the terms for entry of foreign investment in the country. The industrial investment schedule has been thoroughly revised to accommodate private entrepreneurs in heavy industries. The members of the EEC delegation would naturally find a wider scope of investment in this country. It is expected that the visit will be followed up by agreements on investment in selected sectors and actual inflow of resources including know-how and technology. For this more contact and elaborate discussions on a portfolio of projects would be called for. It is hoped that authorities in Bangladesh would be presenting to EEC countries such a portfolio in the coming months.

It is reported that the authorities have set in motion a process of

scanning of projects included in the Second Five-Year Plan. If they keep the views of the delegation in mind, such scanning should enable them to have a roster of viable projects for presentation to the EEC. Apparently the Joint Bangladesh-EEC Commission which had its meetings in Dhaka has outlined areas of cooperation and considered the progress of on-going projects. More elaborate exercise in this regard will be called for. The delegation has however, studied a wide range of bilateral issues including food aid and trade promotion. These are matters of immediate concern to Bangladesh and the outcome of deliberations has been encouraging as per press statement of the leader of the EEC delegation.

It may be noted that Bangladesh continues to export raw materials and low technology products to EEC countries. Some of

the exports are free from custom duty. If measures are taken to improve quality of products, maintain the schedule of exports and quote competitive price, there is scope for getting a wider market share. Like other competitors Bangladesh should be able to increase export earnings from some non-traditional items and even textile. Investors from the EEC countries should be encouraged to enter into joint-venture agreements for these exportable products. In addition they should be encouraged to invest in heavy industries including petro-chemicals, for which this country has also a good reserve of natural gas and other non-renewable resources. Given the investment climate, the move for cooperation and the perspective of development collaborative activities with the EEC may prove profitable and propitious for this country.

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD MEETS PRESS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR KUWAIT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Feb 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad left Dhaka on Monday morning for Kuwait on the first leg of his three-nation tour that will later take him to Morocco and Jordan, reports BSS.

Prior to his departure, the CMLA told reporters at the airport that he was visiting the three friendly and brotherly countries at the invitations of the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahamad Al Sabah, King Hasan of Morocco and King Hussein of Jordan.

He said that he would discuss with the leaders of the three countries bilateral, regional and international matters and issues concerning the Muslim world.

Gen. Ershad expressed the hope that his visit to Kuwait, Morocco and Jordan would further consolidate Bangladesh's friendly relations with the three countries.

He said that he would be in Kuwait till February 2 and discuss with the Amir matters of mutual interest.

The CMLA recalled that Bangladesh's relation with Kuwait was close and that both countries were the members of the OIC.

He said that the two countries were also working in close cooperation in various international forums.

He pointed out that Kuwait had provided 36 million dollar assistance for the 72 million dollars East-West Inter-Connector project of Bangladesh.

Gen. Ershad said that at present there were 23,000 Bangladeshis working in Kuwait from whom the country had earned a remittance of taka 63 crore during last 10 months.

The CMLA said that from Kuwait he would go to Rabat on February 2 and have talks with King Hasan on Al-Quus Committee. He will hold discussions with the leaders of Morocco on bilateral matters.

Gen. Ershad said "We are having century-old relation with Morocco that began in the 14th century with the visit of famous historian Ibne Batuta."

He said both Bangladesh and Morocco were working together in OIC and other Islamic forums.

Gen. Ershad said that on his way back home he would make a stopover in Jordan, during which he would have talks with King Hussein.

Replying to a question, he said that he would discuss with King Hussein the Lebanon and Palestinian issues.

Asked if Bangladesh was mediating to remove the recent misunderstanding between the Arab countries and the United Kingdom on PLO issue, the CMLA said, "We have already initiated negotiations and it seems that the misunderstanding between them has already been removed."

The CMLA's entourage included Foreign Minister Mr. A. R. Shamsud Doha; Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman and senior officials.

The CMLA was seen off at the airport by DCMLAs--Rear Admiral M. A. Khan and Air Vice-Marshal Sultan Mahmud--Ministers, members of diplomatic missions and high civil and military officials.

Gen. Ershad is expected to return home on February 8.

CSO: 4600/1726

REPORT ON FORMATION OF NATIONAL WATER COUNCIL

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Feb 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Government has constituted a 21-member National Water Council. The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H M Ershad will be the Chairman of the Council, says a PID handout.

The terms of reference of the National Water Council are as follows: (a) Review the activities relating to the preparation of National Water Plan; (b) Review the progress made in harnessing the Water resources of the Country; (c) Formulate overall policy with regard to optimal allocation of the water resource among different uses; (d) Determine the investment size and pattern for full development of the water resources; (e) Review the institutional arrangements for water management and consider measures for improvement; (f) The Council may perform any other function in the water related sectors that may be considered necessary for better utilisation and management of the water resources.

The National Water Council will meet at least once every three months.

The members of the Council are: (a) DCMLA and Chief of Naval Staff and Minister for Communication; (b) LCMLA and Chief of Air Staff and Minister for Energy; (c) Minister for Finance and Planning; (d) Minister for Foreign Affairs; (e) Minister for Agriculture; (f) Minister for Local Government; (g) Major General Muzammel Hussain, psc PSO to CMLA; (h) Major General Nooruddin Khan psc Chief of General Staff, AHQ; (i) Major General Mahmudul Hassan, Engineer-in-Chief, Army Headquarters; (j) Mr Abul Ahsan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (k) Professor M I Chowdhury; (l) Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dhaka University; (m) Dr Q Khalequzzaman Ahmed, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies; (n) Chairman, SPARSO; (o) Chairman, Water Development Board; (p) Chief, Water Division of Planning Commission; (q) Mr Maqbuiur Rahman, Consulting Engineer; (r) Anwar Hussain Manju, Editor, ITTEFAQ; (s) One Senior Engineer experienced in water resources planning drawn from Water Development Board (JRC); and (t) Secretary, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Ministry of Agriculture (Member/Secretary).

CSO: 4600/1728

INFORMATION MINISTER REPORTS ON DAKAR CONFERENCE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh has been unanimously elected to the four-member committee set up to determine the scale of financial contribution of member countries to the specialised agencies of the OIC, Information Minister Syed Najmuddin Hashim said in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Talking to BSS Mr Hashim, who led the Bangladesh delegation to the meeting of the Permanent Islamic Commission of Information and Cultural Affairs held in Dakar last week, said that the four-member committee has been entrusted with the fulfilment of the information plan such as the International Islamic News Agency (IINA); the broadcasting organisations; the scientific, educational and cultural organisations and the Istanbul Centre.

He said the scale of contributions could be decided, keeping in mind the per capita income of member countries.

The Minister pointed out that Bangladesh played an active and important role in the Dakar meeting and delegates welcomed the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad's assurance that "Islam will find its due and proper place in the future Constitution under which a democratic dispensation suited to the genius and requirements of the people will be ushered in by the present Government of Bangladesh".

Mr Hashim said that President Abdou Diouf of Senegal who is also Chairman of the Commission sent a message to Gen Ershad "in recognition of the Bangladesh Government's consistent and staunch support to the causes of the Islamic Ummah".

It is in recognition of Bangladesh's distinct contribution to the outcome of the conference that the Saudi Information Minister Dr Mohamed Abdou Yamani presented a piece of the Ghilaf of Kaaba Sharif to the Bangladesh chief delegate, the Minister said.

The leader of the Bangladesh delegation said that he had informed the conference of developments in his country in the service of Islam like the establishment of an Islamic university, the publication of a 1200-page encyclopaedia of Islam in Bengali language and the wide publicity given in

the mass media to the Palestine liberation struggle and the plight of the Lebanese and Palestinian people who had been subjected to genocide in Beirut.

The Information Minister said Bangladesh played its due role at the conference to evolve ways and means to project to the outside world a faithful image of Islam as a religion of tolerance, peace, justice and freedom.

Mr Hashim pointed out that the immediate tasks were obviously to break through the mystification and preconditioning of world opinion by the major international media regarding the just Islamic causes and mainly that of Palestine and Al Quds Al-Sharif.

The first concrete steps were taken at Dakar to work out and integrate an information strategy for the OIC he said.

A significant outcome of the conference, the Minister said, was the decision to welcome the decision of President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon to open a section to study relationship of Islam with Bantu civilizations at the Libreville Centre of Bantu Civilization. The centre was set up earlier this month at a conference participated by eleven African countries inhabited by Bantu peoples, he added.

Mr Hashim said Bangladesh particularly welcomed this serious effort to encourage a dialogue between the Islamic civilization and the Bantu peoples. It also lent full support to existing OIC specialised agencies and those proposed to be set up like the Islamic Fiqh Academy in Jeddah; the Islamic Solidarity Games proposed by Bangladesh; the Islamic Translation Institute in Khartoum; the Islamic universities in Uganda, Nigeria and Bangladesh and others.

The Minister said all these multifarious activities proved that the Islamic world had recognised the international threat posed to its position and was taking active steps to safeguard its interests.

Mr Hashim observed that Islam came to Bangladesh long before the Muslim conquest in the 13th century. During the Khilafat of Hazrat Umar (RA) Hazrat Mamun and Hazrat Mohaimin came at the head of a group of preachers in the seventh century A.D.

The Minister said "We will as the Senegalese President said, mobilize our integrity and cultural specificity and open them up to other cultures in a spirit of mutual enrichment so that we can contribute to a balanced dialogue between cultures that are free of any sectarianism and thus fulfil the legitimate aspirations of our people for a new world cultural and information order".

REPORT ON LABOR MINISTER'S TALKS WITH BRUNEI LEADER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] The Chief Minister of Brunei Datuk Seri Seita Awang Haji Abdul Aziz has stressed the need for closer cooperation and frequent contacts between the leaders and the peoples of Bangladesh and Brunei reports BSS.

The Brunei Chief Minister expressed the view when the Bangladesh Labour and Manpower Minister Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) K. M. Aminul Islam met him in Brunei on January 24 according to a delayed message received in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The Minister conveyed the warm and personal regards of the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad to the Brunei Chief Minister who reciprocated the greetings.

The Chief Minister emphasised the common bonds of religion and culture that bind the two countries together and expressed his deep appreciation for the Islamic values that the people of Bangladesh and Brunei deeply possess.

Mr. Abdul Aziz accepted an invitation to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time.

Earlier the Labour Minister met his counterpart Mr. Pengiran Anak Idris and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Brunei Minister said that his country wanted to meet its manpower needs partially from Bangladesh.

The two Ministers also discussed ways and means to simplify the procedure for recruitment of Bangladesh manpower and to remove the bottlenecks if any. In this connection it was also agreed in principle that the Manpower deal should be as far as practicable on government to government basis.

The Labour Minister also met the Bangladeshi nationals in Brunei and enquired about their welfare.

The Minister was accompanied by Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia Mr Mustafizur Rahman.

CSO: 4600/1719

WRITERS DESCRIBE FACTIONALISM IN AWAMI LEAGUE

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 22 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Amin Chowdhury and Moti Chowdhury]

[Text] The Bangladesh Awami League's (Hasina) internal wrangling is getting intensified with the addition of fresh elements into an already depressing party situation.

Apart from the two major factions--one led by party president Sheikh Hasina herself and the other by general secretary Abdur Razzak--a new group has surfaced recently and has been trying to consolidate its position and win over some senior party leaders.

According to some party insiders, there is a 'mystery' around the sudden emergence of this group and the insiders further believe that the new faction enjoys blessings from a powerful quarter in the country. They are learnt to be in favor of the Awami League's taking a stand for the revival of the 1972 constitution in its original form shunning completely the ideas of one party Baksal system as well as diluting the party's demand for 'socialism'.

This group is led by party presidium member Zohra Tajuddin, the widow of late Tajuddin Ahmed, the former Finance minister of Bangladesh and a one-time stalwart of the Awami League. Mrs Tajuddin is being solidly backed by Major-General (retd) Khalilur Rehman, a comparatively new but influential party leader, and Abdul Momen, another senior leader who was food minister in Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's cabinet.

This group has reportedly been trying to enlist the support of powerful presidium member Kamal Hussain.

Razzak

Meanwhile the rift in the mainstream of Awami League between pro-Hasina and pro-Razzak factions has further sharpened in recent weeks. Widespread rumors are there in political circles that Abdur Razzak has resigned from the party as its general secretary, though it has been denied both by Abdur Razzak and the party.

What could be gathered by contacting Awami League sources is that the young general secretary quit the party's national working committee meeting in a fit of anger after having a wordy duel with president Sheikh Hasina on January 6. While leaving, Razzak threatened not to attend any party meetings in future, according to sources.

The working committee was discussing the issue the party's divided student front and much heat was generated while the meeting was in progress. Two groups of Chhatra League, one known as Jalal-Jahangir and the other as Fazlu-Chhunu (according to the names of their president and secretary), are backed respectively by Sheikh Hasina and Abdur Razzak.

According to some insiders, at one stage of the working committee meeting Hasina, expressing her disgust over the affairs of the party, said that some of the Awami League leaders were bent on keeping two student leagues for their own benefit and were now allowing the student wing to take its own program. She further said that the Awami Leaguers had made her the president only for serving their own interests and this has made her a controversial figure.

Collaborators

According to the same sources, she went on adding that it seemed to her that people now disturbing the peace of the party were the collaborators of her father's (Sheikh Mujib) killers.

Such outpourings from the chair shocked all the senior leaders, it is gathered. Abdur Razzak, however, found it too much to digest and vehemently protested Hasina's remarks. He also sought permission from Hasina to speak. But Hasina did not allow him to speak saying that she was yet to finish her speech.

Undaunted, Razzak said in an emotion-choked voice that since he and the others had been accused of association with the killers of Sheikh Mujib, he would not stay there and if necessary he would resign from the party and so saying, he left the meeting venue.

With Razzak's walk-out the meeting ended abruptly and Hasina adjourned it till January 21. Some other party leaders, however, pacified Razzak and he attended another meeting of the party at the same premises of Road No 32, Dhanmandi on January 10 which was arranged to commemorate the return of Sheikh Mujib from Pakistan in 1972.

Meanwhile there has been no progress in the process of unification of two factions of student league. A 13-member subcommittee with Hasina, Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Korban Ali, Abdus Samad Azad and others was formed to unite the two warring factions. But not a single meeting of the subcommittee was held, it is gathered.

Both the factions of the Student League announced separate programs to observe their founding day on January 4 last but later at the request of

the Awami League leaders the Hasina backed Jalal-Jahangir group withdrew their programs. Abdur Razzak backed Fazlu-Chunnu group, however, held a function on the day.

The Awami League president Hasina issued a show cause notice on Fazlu-Chunna Student League and asked it to express regret for the defiance of party instructions. But the faction is learnt to have taken no cognizance of the show cause.

Yubo League

Meanwhile the youth front of the party, Awami Yubo League and workers front Shramik League also stand clearly divided with one faction lending support to Hasina and the other to Abdur Razzak.

The Hasina-Razzak division in the Awami League, according to party insiders, began right from the day Sheikh Hasina was elected the president of the party with blessings from Kamal Hussain, Tofael Ahmed and others in 1981. Abdur Razzak and others who had the majority support of the party councillors wanted to make Abdus Samad Azad or some one else of their liking as party president.

But they had to accept Sheikh Hasina as the president because of the deep emotional attachment of the party members with the name of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Sheikh Hasina by maintaining a measured neutrality for sometime, however, started clearly siding with Kamal Hussain--Tofael faction and differences with Razzak group widened.

Lately Hasina group is criticized in the party for having a loose link with the present regime. This allegation was based on Hasina's refusal to sign a joint statement with other political parties for launching a movement.

Meanwhile the known pro-Soviet elements in the party like Mohiuddin Ahmed and Motia Chowdhury of former Muzaffar NAP is maintaining a neutral posture and Abdur Razzak is working together with Abdus Samad Azad and Abdul Malek Ukil.

The differences in the party have also spread to district and other units of the party.

In Dhaka City Awami League leader M.A. Hanif who was so far aligning with Hasina group has now reportedly shifted his allegiance to Abdur Razzak. In Chittagong district Akhtaruzzaman and Abdul Mannan who were strong supporters of Abdur Razzak once now are learnt to have crossed over to Sheikh Hasina's side.

LEFTIST GROUPS SAID TO REASSESS MAO THOUGHT

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 22 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Mahmud Rashid Montu; second item in a series. For first of series see

[Text] Some of the leftist groups have continued operating underground keeping intact their revolutionary political strategy.

Most significant development in the politics of these circles is that they no longer consider China as "the citadel of revolution". They have rejected Mao thought and his three-world theory altogether.

In their reassessment of Mao thought they have pointed out domination of nationalist elements instead of Marxist-Leninist principles in it.

Two splinter groups--Revolutionary Communist Party of Bangladesh-ML (RCPB-ML) led by Abdul Huq and Lt. Col. (retd) Ziauddin's faction of Sarbahara Party have retained their old tactics of clandestine operations based on the theory of protracted armed struggle.

Their view about the open Marxist-Leninist parties which have apparently abandoned or tactically suspended underground activities is based on the hypothesis that "they have capitulated to different imperialist forces and their local lackeys forming the power caucus of the country."

The RCPB (ML) had strongholds in the districts of Jessore, Kushtia and Khulna and in many parts of Faridpur district. But following a series of cleavages suffered by the party in the process of polarization for the unity of Marxist-Leninist forces over last few years the party has been reduced to a small faction.

The successive cleavages in the party resulted in the desertion of stalwarts like Sardindu Dastidar, Amjad Hossain, Bimal Biswas who now belong to the revolutionary Communist League.

Abdul Huq, the key figure of RCPB (ML) who was once a staunch advocate of Mao thought and his "three world theory" changed his position and started criticizing Mao strategy.

Abdul Haq has also expressed himself against the present leadership of China rather vehemently. During the latest round of polemics in the RCPB (ML) his opponents who stressed the need for unification of the Marxist-Leninist groups charged him with pursuing the Albanian line of politics. His close comrades, Amjed Hossain and Bimal Biswas, joined hands with Abdul Matin, Tipu Biswas and Sardindu Dastidar to form the Revolutionary Communist League.

According to the appraisal of Abdul Haq 'US imperialism' has been maintaining its dominant role in the governance of the country.

This group of the Marxist Leninist camp has developed a sort of fraternal rapport with the faction of Sarbahara Party led by a fugitive army officer and independence war-hero named Lt. Col (retd) Ziauddin.

Sarbahara Party

The Sarbahara Party suffered a schism after its supreme leader Siraj Sikdar was brutally killed by the Mujib regime in 1975.

The RCPB (ML) and Ziauddin's group of Sarbahara Party were locked in a prolonged dialogue for a long time for their fusion in a single entity because of their identical views on some important ideological questions, but their parley was deadlocked at a stage because of what is widely believed to be their "hidden contradiction" on the leadership issue.

Fraternal Relation

However, the two groups are now maintaining fraternal relationship between them and trying to strengthen it through regular contacts.

The faction of Sarbahara Party led by Ziauddin has rejected Mao thought and his three-world theory like RCPB (ML). Besides, it has reassessed Siraj Shikdar as a nationalist leader and not a Communist leader.

While analysing the East European countries including Rumania and Yugoslavia Zia-led Sarbahara Party observes, "national democratic revolution was completed in these countries, but in the aftermath of the revolution these countries have turned into capitalist ones abandoning the path of socialism, proletariat dictatorship and policy of internationalism."

About China it said, "The present Chinese leadership has thrown away revolutionary class struggle by putting forward the three-world theory. Consequently, bourgeois-fascism has been established in China and it has joined world imperialism as it has abandoned proletariat dictatorship and internationalism."

Another faction of Sarbahara party was at its initial stage branded by its opponents as "the Mahatab clique." It was taken over by Probir Niyagi who lost his control over the party after his arrest in 1977.

The leadership of the group slipped into the hands of Anwarul Kabir who launched efforts to reunite both the factions of the party, but there was no positive outcome of the efforts. This group retains the political line of Siraj Sikdar almost intact and allegiance to Mao thought.

It may be pointed out that while the faction of Sarbahara Party led by Ziauddin has confined its main activities in some parts of Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts districts the Anwarul Kabir-steered faction had strong pockets in the Madaripur sub-division of Faridpur district.

The open Marxist-Leninist parties like Bangladesh Communist League and two factions of Samyabadi Dal (ML) have not made any major change in their political stand.

All these parties consider Mao thought as the latest development of Marxism-Leninism. Regarding recent changes in China these parties observe, "they are watching the changes and they cannot explain many of them as these changes are taking place in the context of Chinese reality".

They maintain that it is "US imperialism" which is now the "principal enemy" of the people of Bangladesh.

The Abbas-led faction of Samyabadi Dal (ML) believes that in the sub-continent US imperialism-Saudi Arabia-India axis has emerged as the main threat to the freedom-seeking nations of the region.

The significant development in the overall leftist camp is that almost all Marxist-Leninist and revolutionary parties have now concentrated their attention on national politics and it is a major shift from their previous political stand.

CSO: 4600/1711

POLITICAL PARTIES SIGN STATEMENT ON EKUSHEY

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Jan 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Fifteen political parties in a joint statement issued to the Press on Sunday appealed to the people to observe the coming Ekushey February on the basis of a common programme under a common set of slogans.

The programme was endorsed at a meeting of the representatives of the political parties held on the day at the residence of Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish with him in the chair. It includes the formation of all-party Ekushey Observance Committees throughout the country, intensive joint publicity highlighting the significance of the Ekushey February non-communalism and arousing national consciousness, firm opposition to anti-people language, cultural and educational practices; holding of seminars and sessions of patriotic songs; placing of flora, wreaths at all shaheed minars in conformity with traditional practices, and holding of mass oath-taking functions at all shaheed minars including Dhaka Central Shaheed Minar.

The signatories to the joint statement included Sheikh Hasina and Mr. Abdur Razzak of Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina), Major (Retd) M. A. Jalil and Mr A S M Abdur Rob of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan), Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed and Pir Habibur Rahman of Bangladesh National Awami Party (Muzaffar), Mr. Mohammad Toaha and Mr. Asaddar Ali of Bangladesher Saimyabadi Dal, Mr. Moni Singh and Mr. Mohammad Farhad of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Syed Altaf Hossain and Sardar Fazlul Halim of Jatiyo Ekota Party, Mr. Rashed Khan Menon and Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rono of Bangladesh Workers Party, Chowdhury Haroonur Rashid and Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharjee of National Awami Party (Haroon), Dewan Farid Gazi and Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed of Awami League (Farid), Mr. Khalequzzaman of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Khondoker Ali Abbas and Mr Dilip Barua of Saimyabadi Dal (M-L), Mr Abul Bashir of Mazdoor Party, Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish and Mr. Abdus Samad of Gano Azadi League and Mr. Siddiqur Rahman and Mr. Nirmal Sen of Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal.

The common slogans endorsed by the fifteen political parties for the observance of the Ekushey February include the guarantees about the freedom of Press, restoration of Constitution, holding of free and fair elections for transfer of power to the elected representatives, firm and resolute resistance to all anti-independence forces and preservation of sanctity of the Shaheed Day and the Shaheed Minars.

CHURCH LEADER: ONLY ISLAMIC CONSTITUTION ACCEPTABLE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Jan 83 p 8

[Text]

Maulana Mohammadullah Hafezji Huzur chief of Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan and over a hundred ulema yesterday said people of the country would not accept any constitution other than Islamic one.

In an open letter to the Chief Martial Law Administrator they said a mere announcement would not help establish Islamic 'hukumat'. A constitution ensuring complete reflection of Islam in all spheres of life has to be guaranteed, they said.

The ulema held that collection of 'zakaat' by the present government was not in accordance with the tenets of Islam. They also opposed the family planning.

Hafezji Huzur and the ulema said, India by withdrawing the Ganges water at Farakka had turned a vast area of Bangladesh in to a desert. They emphasised on the construction of a barrage on the Ganges to offset the adverse affect of the Farakka. To this objective an aggressive foreign policy had to be followed for ensuring international assistance, they said.

They further said the Indian proposal for Ganges-Brahmaputra link canal had to be resisted at any cost. The link canal would destroy 35 per cent cultivable lands of Bangladesh aggravating agricultural economy of the country, the ulema maintained.

JUTE MILLS REPORT PROFIT, REVERSE TREND

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] The Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) earned a profit of Taka 9.94 crore during the first half of the current fiscal year, reversing the trend under which it suffered a loss of Taka 66 crore in the preceding year (1981-82).

The gains were made in spite of recessions and slump which caused serious fall in the prices of jute.

The Corporation achieved the breakthrough in August as a result of its coordinated and allout efforts to check the loss and earn profit.

Of the 46 jute mills operated by the BJMC, 30 mills made profit while 16 other mills incurred loss. The jute mills under the Dhaka zone of the Corporation earned the highest amount of profit of Tk 7.37 crore.

However, total profit made by 30 jute mills during this period was Tk 16.35 crore while the remaining 16 mills suffered a loss of Tk 6.40 crore.

The ten mills of Khulna zone earned a profit of Tk 6.32 crore. Two other mills of the zone incurred loss of Tk 20.35 lakh. In the Chittagong zone, six mills made a profit of Tk 2.64 crore while seven mills in this zone suffered a total loss of Tk. 4.72 crore. Fourteen jute mills of Dhaka zone earned a total profit of Tk. 7.37 crore while five mills incurred a total loss of Tk 1.5 crore. The Adamjee zone suffered a loss of Tk 41.34 lakh during this period.

Sources pointed out that the jute industry in the country for the first time made a profit of Tk 104 crore in 1979-80. In the following year (1980-81) it also earned a profit of Tk 39 crore. But international recession and fall in the export prices gave a serious blow to the industry and, as a result, it suffered a loss of Tk 66 crore in 1981-82.

Of the 30 mills, 15 earned profit at the time of transfer to the former owners under disinvestment programme, it is learnt.

CSO: 4600/1716

MORE THANAS SELECTED FOR UPGRADING PROCESS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jan 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] One hundred and twelve more thanas have been selected for upgradation in two phases by April next according to an official announcement in Dhaka Wednesday night reports BSS.

Of the total 112 thanas, 55 will be upgraded in the third phase on March 24 while remaining 57 thanas on April 15, according to a decision taken at a meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reorganisational Reform held on January 24.

The Chairman of the committee and DCMLA Rear Admiral M A Khan presided over the meeting held at the CMLA's Secretariat in Dhaka.

The meeting reviewed the organisational set up of the upgraded thana administration, discussed problems of these thanas and took a number of decisions towards solving these problems.

It was decided that Thana Parishad will be formed in the upgraded thanas under the Local Government (Thana Parishad and Thana Administrative Reorganisation) Ordinance 1982. The Thana Nirbahi Officer will act as Chairman of Thana Parishad until the Chairman is elected or nominated by the Government. Composition of the Thana Parishad will include representatives from among the Union Parishad Chairmen as members. The official members will be 1) Thana Health and Family Planning Officer; 2) Thana Education Officer; 3) Thana Agriculture Officer; 4) Thana Engineer; 5) Thana Cooperative Officer; 6) Thana Livestock Officer; 7) Thana Fishery Officer; 8) Thana Social Welfare Officer; 9) Thana Rural Development Officer; 10) Thana Mass Communication Officer; 11) Thana Revenue Officer and 12) Officer-in-Charge, Police Station. The Thana Parishad will also include Chairman, Thana Central Cooperative Association, three women members and one nominated member.

The Ministry of Works has been directed to undertake the construction work of office and residential accommodation in the newly selected 112 thanas immediately.

Earlier 45 thanas were upgraded in the 1st phase on November 7 and 55 thanas upgraded in the 2nd phase on December 15 last year.

Names of Thanas

Following are the names of thanas selected for upgradation 3rd phase--
24 March 1983.

ML Zone 'A' Dhaka, Dohar, Rungoni, Daulatpur, Saturia
Mymensing, Nikli, Kuliarchar, Durgapur, Madan, Kalma, Kanda
Jamalpur, Madargoni, Nalitabari
Tangail, Bhuapur

Zone 'B'

Raishahi, Mahanpur, Charghat, Porsha
Dinaipur, Kaharole, Debigoni
Rangpur, Gangachara, Badargoni, Brurungamari, Jaldhaka, Palashbari
Bogra, Shibgoni, Dhunat
Pabna, Sujanagar, Tarash

Zone 'C'

Chittagong, Raozan, Kutubdia
Chittagong Hill Tracts, Baghaichari, Dighinala
Bandarban, Ruma

Zone 'D'

Comilla, Muradnagar, Debiduar, Barura, Naginagar
Noakhali, Ramgoni, Senbag
Sylhet, Bishwanath, Kanaighat, Bahubal, Kulaura, Jaganathpur

Zone 'E'

Faridpur, Alfandanga, Zanjira
Khulna, Terokhada, Tala Rampal

Zone 'E'

Kushtia, Kumarkhali
Jessore, Chowgacha, Harinakunda
Barisal, Muladi, Babugoni, Tazimuddin, Nalchiti
Patuakhali, Patharghata

Names of Thanas Selected for Upgrading 4th Phase--15 April (1st Baiishak)
1983

Zone 'A'

Dhaka, Sreepur, Araihasar, Gazaria
Mymensinga, Bhairab, Austagram, Bazitpur, Katiadi
Jamalpur, Melandah
Tangail, Madhupur, Basail

Zone 'B'

Rajshahi, Tanore, Manda, Lalpur, Bagtipara, Gamastapur
Dinajpur, Nawabganj, Haripur, Tetulia
Rangpur, Mithapukur, Patgranu, Hatibandha, Chilmari, Nageswari
Bogra, Sonatola, Akkelpur
Pabna, Bera, Belkuchi

Zone 'C'

Chittagong, Mirsarai, Banshkhali, Ramu
Chittagong Hill Tracts, Manikchari, Belaichari
Bandarban, Rawangchari

Zone 'D'

Comilla, Daudkandi, Burichang, Bancharampur, Hajiganj
Noakhali, Ramgoti, Raipur
Sylhet, Gowainghat, Barlekha, Jamalganj, Lakhai, Nabiganj

Zone 'E'

Faridpur--Baliakandi, Kasiani, Shibchar
Khulna--Dumura, Assasuni, Fakirhat
Kushtia--Damurhuda
Jessore--Monirampur, Sreepur
Barisal--Mehendiganj, Monpura, Bhandaria
Patuakhali--Galachipa

CSO: 4600/1719

REVISED RULES ON FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARIZED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jan 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] The Government has revised and laid down detailed procedure of regulation of foreign contributions and of voluntary activities funded with foreign donations under the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982 and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Ordinance, 1978 respectively, says a PID handout.

The main features of the revised procedure are mentioned below:

- (1) The Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Ordinance of 1982 applies to all donors as well as recipients. Any contribution in cash or kind including free air tickets comes under the purview of law. It is obligatory for both donors and recipients to obtain government permission for making or receiving any contribution. If such contribution is to be used for voluntary activities, the provision of the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Ordinance and Rules made thereunder become applicable. If any voluntary activities are funded by foreign donations, then the registration of the agency or individual undertaking such voluntary activities will be necessary. Registration for undertaking voluntary activities funded by foreign donations is one exercise while obtaining permission for receipt of foreign contributions is another.
- (2) Registration is obligatory for both foreign and Bangladesh agencies or persons undertaking voluntary activities in Bangladesh with foreign donations. For registration, agencies or persons are required to apply to the Director of Social Welfare in for FDI under rule 3 of Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Rules.
- (3) For receiving donations for undertaking or carrying on voluntary activity all applicants are required to apply in form FD 2 to External Resources Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Twelve copies of application are required to be submitted. Application in form FD 2 should be made simultaneously with the application for registration in form FD 1 by the agencies or persons not yet registered but obligated to do so to the Director, Department of Social Welfare.
- (4) All applications for permission to receive funds must be accompanied by a similar number of declarations regarding receipt of foreign donations

and their resources (in form FD 3) and, where applicable, the manner of their utilization (in form FD 4).

(5) For receiving foreign contributions which are not specifically meant for voluntary activities, all recipients are required to apply to ERD in form FC 1. Twelve copies of such application should be submitted.

(6) For making contributions, foreign agencies or individuals are required to apply for permission from ERD in form FC 2 furnishing therein information on (a) beneficiary of the contribution, (b) purpose of contribution and (c) amount and terms of contribution.

(7) No Governmental agency shall sign any agreement or memorandum of understanding with a voluntary agency except when authorised by the ERD in pursuance of an understanding with bilateral or multilateral official donors. Registration of voluntary agencies under the Joint Stock Companies Act should also cease and all of them should be registered in accordance with the procedure laid down herein. When the field of activities or its location is intended to be changed by any voluntary agency, it should be cleared with the Standing Committee in the ERD through the concerned Ministry or Directorate of Social Welfare.

(8) All proposals for employment of expatriates under any voluntary organization must be within the sanctioned strength as decided by the Standing Committee.

(9) In the matter of employment of local staff under any voluntary organization the provision of sub-rule (4) of Rule 5A of the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulations Rules, 1978 as amended by Home Ministry's Notification of October 6, 1982 should be complied with. In urgent cases, however, an organization may employ local staff provisionally under intimation to the Ministry of Home Affairs pending issue of clearance as required under the said rule.

(10) Inspection and audit of voluntary activities will be carried out in the following manner:

(a) The administrative Ministry will exercise the power of inspection, auditing of accounts, etc. as provided in section 4 & 5 of the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Ordinance, 1978 and rules 6 & 8 of the Rules framed thereunder.

(b) All funds in foreign exchange will be received by every organization/person through an account specified by the Bangladesh Bank. The Bank will be provided with a list of projects and organizations by the Director of Social Welfare periodically.

ELECTION COMMISSIONER REPORTS PREPARATION OF LISTS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Preparation of electoral rolls (voters' list) begins throughout the country from today (Friday). 1,08,730 enumerators and supervisors will begin collecting names and other particulars of eligible voters by house to house visits.

Announcing this at a Press conference, the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Justice A. K. M. Nurul Islam, said the final electoral rolls would be made ready hopefully by August 5 this year. The Chief Election Commissioner estimated that the number of voters this year would be between 4.5 and 5 crore. This he said would be the third time since independence that the nation was going to have a full voters' list. The number of voters in 1978 election was 38,951,614.

The Chief Election Commissioner said that the Election Commission would try its utmost to enroll every citizen of the country who has attained 18 years of age on January 1, 1983.

The preparation of electoral rolls, Mr. Justice Nurul Islam estimated, would cost more than Taka eight crore. The Election Commission, he said, had prepared a budget of Taka 8.89 crore for the preparation of the electoral rolls this year. The cost for the preparation of electoral rolls in 1976 was Taka 3.8 crore.

The Chief Election Commissioner said that the Election Commission has appointed 83 Registration Officers and 785 Assistant Registration Officers for the purpose of preparing electoral rolls. The Sub-Divisional Election Officers have been appointed Registration Officers while the Assistant Registration Officers have been appointed from amongst the thana level officers. He said that the Registration Officers have already appointed required number of enumerators and supervisors within their respective areas. There shall be one enumerator for each one thousand number or fraction thereof of the population and one supervisor to check and verify the works of four enumerators. A total of 86,918 enumerators and 21,822 supervisors have been appointed by the Registration Officers throughout the country.

Mr. Justice Nurul Islam said that the enumerators and supervisors were given adequate training to make them conversant with the laws, rules and

procedures prescribed for the preparation of electoral rolls. The enumerators, he said, have been selected from amongst the teachers of primary schools, clerks, assistants of government and semi-government offices and also from the autonomous bodies as well as retired but still active government servants, literate and well reputed people of the locality not involved in politics. The supervisors have been taken from amongst the high school teachers, headmasters of primary schools, senior clerks of the government, semi-government, autonomous bodies and teachers of government schools.

The Chief Election Commissioner said that the draft electoral rolls would be published on March 28 with notices, inviting claims and objections and the last date for filing such claims and objections is April 12, 1983. According to him, there shall be revising authorities to be appointed by the Election Commission throughout the country for the disposal of the claims and objections against the draft electoral rolls. Any decision passed by the revising authorities in this regard shall be final, he added. Continuing, the Chief Election Commissioner said that the last date for the disposal of the filed claims and objections by the revising authorities on claims has been fixed on May 3. The last date for incorporation of decisions on claims and objections May 23 and final publication of the electoral rolls shall be made on August 5.

Continued amendment and correction in the electoral rolls is a continuous process. The Registration Officers are empowered to correct and amend the electoral rolls after its preparation and also to include names of persons whose names do not appear in the roll, but who are otherwise entitled to be enrolled as voters. There are provisions in the Ordinance and Rules for doing the same. In 1972, when the first electoral roll was prepared after the emergence of Bangladesh, the total number of voters stood at 3,52,05,642. In 1976 fresh electoral rolls were prepared for the second time. The total number of voters in the country stood this time at 3,83,63,868 and in May 1977 during Referendum the same number of voters participated. This showed that an additional number of 31,58,216 voters were included in 1976. In June 1978 Presidential Election, the total number of voters was 3,84,86,247. This showed an annual increase of 1,22,389 voters. In February, 1979 Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Elections 1,51,317 new voters were enrolled as the total number of voters stood at 3,86,37,664. In Presidential Election of November, 1981 the total number of voters was 3,89,51,014 showing an increase of 3,13,350 voters.

SOVIETS TO PROVIDE AID FOR POWER STATION CONSTRUCTION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] The Soviet Union will provide Bangladesh equipment and materials worth 76.6 million U.S. dollars (over Taka 180 crore) for the construction of the fourth unit of the Ghorasal Power Station, reports BSS.

According to an official handout issued on Thursday an agreement for the unit was signed in Dhaka recently between Bangladesh Power Development Board and Ms Technoproexport of USSR.

Construction work for the 210 megawatt capacity unit will start soon and is expected to be completed by early 1987, the handout added. The present generation capacity of the power station is 110 megawatt.

Another contract was also initiated by the two countries to expedite the construction work of the on-going third unit (210 megawatt) of the power station. With completion of the two additional units having 210 megawatt capacity each, the total generation capacity of the Ghorasal Power Station will rise to 530 megawatt. The cost of the on-going third unit has been updated with the latest studies and requirements and accordingly an additional 2.26 million dollars will be required to complete the work by December 1984. The total cost for the third unit now stands at 74.46 million dollars.

The construction work for the power plant began in the pre-independence period and power station went on operation in the mid-seventies, Power Board sources said.

The cost of the entire project will be provided as loan by the government of USSR, the handout said.

The contract also ensures expeditious supply of equipment and materials to complete the work on schedule. It is expected that with the addition of the two units, the Ghorasal Power Station will meet the growing power demand of the country to a great extent, the handout added.

CSO: 4600/1721

REPORTER NOTES GROWTH IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 29 Jan 83 p 1

[Article by Amin Chowdhury]

[Text] Has the government decided to allow limited political activities despite martial law regulations to the contrary?

The growing spate of political activities in recent weeks and non-interference by the authorities have given rise to speculations that the regime is seriously considering the initiation of political process sooner than expected.

One foreign broadcasting agency quoting highly placed sources in Dhaka has recently reported that a decision to allow politics without actually lifting the martial law or amending its regulation had been taken by the government sometime ago.

Leaders of some major political parties, however, said that they have not been given any indication, even informally, of any such gesture. As routine political performances, the parties have been observing some ceremonial occasions like party founding anniversary or commemorative meetings.

At least one political party--the BNP--took prior permission of the authorities for holding a memorial meeting on the occasion of the birth anniversary of its founding leader, late President Ziaur Rahman.

The Awami League (Hasina) also held a rally at late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Dhanmondi residence when his youngest daughter Sheikh Rehana returned to the country last week.

On both the occasions there were slogans and processions without any intervention from the authorities though big contingents of law-enforcing agencies were present during the rallies.

Besides, political parties have been frequently holding meetings of their executive and other committees and have been holding consultations among themselves without any disturbance.

Such harmonious coexistence of the politicians and the military has been made possible so far because of restrained behaviour of all concerned.

CSO: 4600/1172

'CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE' IN BANGLADESH COMMUNIST PARTY

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 29 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The pro-Soviet communist party of Bangladesh (CPB) now faces a crisis of confidence organizationally and appears to be not sure what particular political line the party should follow in the current circumstances.

The senior leaders of the party including its chief Moni Singh want to toe a political line along with and acceptable to the Awami League (Hasina) while a powerful section of the CPB's junior leadership and the rank and file of the party are learnt to be against this line.

The dissident leaders and workers feel that the CPB should abandon its old policy of 'tautism'. They argue that association with the Awami League has already damaged the party in popular estimation; and its progress has been blunted.

Moreover, the Awami League (Hasina) itself is beset with internal problems and a very powerful section of it is against keeping any solid link with the CPB.

The large-scale induction of pro-Soviet elements in the Awami League has resulted in increasing the influence of Soviet politics in the party.

It is gathered that the senior leadership of the CPB is against the split of Awami League (Hasina) at this stage and they are learnt to be advising their like-minded Awami Leaguers to keep the party united on the 'socialist' road of their choice by influencing its policies and programs.

It is further gathered that Moni Singh and other senior CPB leaders are also opposed to a policy of confrontation with the present administration at the moment.

This faction of the leadership is apprehensive that the party with its current low level of popular support and appeal will not be able to absorb any reprisal measures from the regime. It is further gathered that the CPB was even reluctant to sign a recent joint statement with other political parties criticizing the fundamentalist forces.

This 'inaction and confused political view and stand', as one CPB supporter put it, of the leadership, has made the majority of the party workers and sympathizers restive and even indignant.

According to this source, a section led by party general secretary Mohammad Farhad is trying to fight this trend inside the party and in favor of a joint action program along with the Workers Party, JSD, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal and others.

CSO: 4600/1722

WORKERS, STUDENTS FORM 'NONPOLITICAL' ORGANIZATION

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 29 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Jaglul Alam]

[Text] The formation of a 'nonpolitical' organization with its wings among the students, workers and peasants is under way.

The workers' wing of the organization was formed last week in Tongi with over 2,500 primary members. The Dhaka branch of the workers' wing will be formed shortly, it is learnt.

Some days ago, the students' front of that 'nonpolitical' organization, was formed with a number of students of Titumir College of Dhaka.

The peasant front of the organization is going to be formed this week. It is gathered that a number of peasants' representatives assembled in Dhaka on January 27 to chalk out the basic policies of the front and adopted some unanimous decisions.

The first meeting of the central committee of the workers' wing of the organization was held on January 14 at Tongi where the aims and objectives of the organization were announced.

According to the announcement, no non-worker would be allowed to become the member of the organization. The workers charged with criminal offenses in the past would not be allowed any office in the executive committee but they may take the primary memberships of the organization.

The workers having link with any political party or if ousted from the workers' wing of any political organization would not get membership in the executive committee, it is gathered.

The organization would not take any direct financial help from any external sources and the workers would raise fund from among themselves.

The executive committee of the organization would take the initiative to launch countrywide branches.

It is gathered that soon after the formation of the worker wing of the organization, some of its members were confronted by a certain leading workers' front based in Tongi. At one stage they proposed to include some of their selected people in the organization. But the proposal was flatly rejected by the executive members of the newly formed committee.

The newly formed workers' front in its introductory brochure said that the organization would avoid traditional politics and devote themselves mainly to building up a service-oriented front.

The front would also encourage the workers to stand against the coterie interests of the politically affiliated workers' organizations and would try to unite all the workers under a common banner.

An informed source said that the combined front of the students, peasants and workers is likely to announce a joint program and next course of action very soon.

CSO: 4600/1722

TEXT OF ERSHAD'S 30 JAN ADDRESS TO NATION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 31 Jan 83 p 3

[Text]

Following is the English rendering of address to the nation by Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt General H M Ershad last night:

My dear countrymen, Assalamu Alaikum,

I have come to you again after the great Victory Day of December 16 to say something. We are on the threshold of the month of February, drenched with tears of one to all in Bangladesh. On such an occasion 31 years ago, our student community had raised its voice in defence of the dignity of the mother tongue. After this, the movement gained momentum phase by phase throughout the month of February. Bangla had been recognised as a state language. I believe, we all irrespective of our party affiliations will preserve its sanctity keeping in mind the sacrifices of the Shaheeds and take a resolute vow to introduce Bangla in all walks of life.

It is really unfortunate, though a reality, that we could not establish proper status of Bangla as a state language even after 31 years. The commitment to introduce Bangla had been confined merely to speeches, statements and functions. My appeal to the professors, researchers and intellectuals associated with different academies and universities is that you make earnest efforts to facilitate imparting higher education through Bangla

by immediately compiling terminologies for science, engineering and other technological subjects. In this respect the Government is eager to provide more active assistance.

I have noticed that Bangla as a language is not being used upto expectations even in Government offices. I am requesting the Government employees to be more active in this respect. I am calling upon the intellectual community, researchers, universities, newspapers and different academies and mass-media to perform their role properly to create a new enthusiasm for mass use of Bengali language in all spheres of our daily life.

The movement which took its birth in the blood-soaked February of 1952 had culminated in full form in the liberation war of 1971 through achievement of independent and sovereign Bangladesh. I pray for the salvation of the departed souls of the Shaheeds of the great language movement.

Dear countrymen,

All of you know we had to shoulder the responsibility of the Government at a critical situation of the country. The Nation and the country was in worse crisis with thousands of problems.

Being the sons of the soil, we took up the responsibility of running the state affairs on that day. In my address to the nation

on March 24 last year I said that the Martial Law this time would be different. The objective of Martial Law this time is to restore healthy democracy—the Martial Law is of the people.

You have noticed that our Martial Law is certainly a bit different from Martial Law of other countries. We have seen many a things leniently. We have shown our restraint in a number of times in the face of provocation and agitation. We have welcomed constructive criticism of the newspapers. We did not ban the political parties. We treated the activities of a section of student leaders as having no relations with the common students. But we have to bear in mind that it will not be desirable for them to take this attitude as licence to promote selfish activities of certain quarters. In this connection I like to remind that as sons of this soil the peasants, workers, soldiers and the people from all walks of life fought shoulder to shoulder in the liberation war braving deaths.

The world that day saw the expression of our firm pledge. So, there is a need of total national unity for quick and successful implementation of the so devotedly programmes undertaken by Martial Law Administration to solve the basic problems of the country. The preliminary works for transition to democracy are on the way of fast

implementation. It is imperative to have a comprehensive and proper outline on every matter before the start of political activities and we are determined to formulate that.

There is no dearth of honest and dedicated politicians in Bangladesh. But they have failed to bring success in the absence of healthy atmosphere, system and institution. Restraint and tolerance and regard to opposition leaders are helpful in establishing real democracy. The absence of these were very evident in our politics during the last fifty years. Political unrest and intolerance brought indiscipline, violence and corruption for the country and the nation and immense misery for common people instead of attaining welfare.

Before the resumption of the political process we have a few conditions in the light of the past experience. These conditions are indispensable for the functioning of democracy properly and in the real sense. The people of Bangladesh particularly millions of those neglected in the rural areas have to be saved from annihilation. There is a big gap between the rich and the poor. The people of rural Bangladesh were miserably ignored. We have to make an arrangement for these conditions for the economic emancipation of the common masses.

What we have so far seen is that those who framed laws were the people's representatives. But the government officials are responsible for execution of the laws, are not pledge-bound to the people.

We have seen the absence of coordination between the two in the past for weaknesses in the system. As a result, the laws were not properly implemented though in many cases these were good. So, the law-makers and those who will implement it have to be made accountable to the people to ensure real democracy. This is our first pre-condition.

The implementation of this (arrangement) has already been started. The thana-level administrative system has been introduced to give the overall responsibility to the elected representatives. We are framing a new thana administrative structure in such a manner that all the thana officials are made accountable to the elected representatives. I have made the arrangement to leave the control of the management of development activities to the elected representatives. The administration at district level is being formulated on the same principles. All these mean that the full responsibility of implementation of the small local development projects would be under the complete control of the elected councils at the district and thana levels. There is no other way out other than this for the economic and overall improvement of the conditions of rural Bangladesh.

You know, one hundred upgraded thanas under the new administrative reforms have already started functioning. One hundred and twelve more have been selected for the upgradation.

Proper measures have been taken for the supervision of the overall development works in the upgraded thanas. This has created a new awakening among the people in the villages in Bangladesh for development works. I have myself seen this while visiting some of the thanas upgraded.

Secondly, we want to have a constitutional arrangement which would ensure the existence of a powerful opposition in the proposed national assembly. A healthy democracy can not succeed without a powerful opposition.

This means making an arrangement for a complete impartial elections. One should not expect the repetition of bluff in the name of democracy in the past.

Thirdly, we want to have such a structure in the constitution so that the mushroom

growth of political parties are checked. The existence of a political party should not be desirable unless it gets a minimum level of votes in the proposed general elections.

Steps have already been taken in respect of the first of the three conditions. Necessary measures in respect of the remaining two conditions will be taken after having opinion of all sections.

I want to say once again democracy is inseparably linked with political tolerance and respect to other points of view. In no way it can be supported that a ruling party will claim monopoly of patriotism and the opposition branded as the enemy of the country and the nation.

Dear countrymen,

We have taken the administration and the judiciary near the general masses. The people have already begun to enjoy the benefit of establishment of the courts at the thana level for the disposal of thousands of smaller cases and the High Courts in different areas. Those who suffer will only know how it is miserable if justice is unavailable at cheaper costs and cases are not disposed of within a short time.

You will be surprised to know that there were about one lakh and fifty thousand cases pending before different courts for disposal before the imposition of Martial Law. Out of these about thirty thousand were before sessions courts and the number of cases before other courts was roughly one lakh twenty thousand. There were even 3-4 19 years old cases which only saw shifting of dates for trial.

On the other hand, about fifty thousand cases were disposed of in the past few months. There were about seventeen thousand and a half cases pending before setting up High Courts in different areas. But in the last four months about four thousand cases were disposed of. We all must remember that the delay in

dispensation of justice and denial of justice mean the same.

Our basic philosophy is "Bangladesh survives if sixty-eight thousand villages survive." The subservient administrative system of pre-independence days has thus been radically changed to suit the needs of the people and we are firm determined to decentralise the administration at the thana and district levels.

With the end of this process, we hope to be able to work out the outline of the proposed national assembly. In this respect opinions of all sections will be considered with sincerity. Meanwhile, work on preparing a new voters list had started throughout the country on January 28. On the basis of this voters list, arrangements will be made to hold the proposed elections at thana level and also at other levels. This is one of the primary steps to pave the way to democracy. Immediately after this, the process of giving democracy and fundamental rights in accordance with the constitution will start.

Side by side, the present Government is determined to reorganise the country's economic structure. Unnecessary projects have already been discarded. Arrangements have been made to revise the top heavy plans and programmes. Instructions were issued to reduce expenditures in Government offices. We don't want to unnecessarily increase the burden of foreign aid.

We have been successful in holding back the increasing inflation. There are already beneficial results of the simplification of the method of realisation of income tax and excise duty. There are reasons to be optimistic about the prospect of increase in industrial output following creation of the conditions of competitiveness as many industries and factories were handed over to private sector.

I invited the industrialists to demonstrate their skill and cooperation. Remember, there are no more the briefcase and fake industrialists and busi-

nessmen. Arrangement has been made for banking credits for genuine businessmen and industrialists. The industrialists have been entrusted with the task of ensuring fair wage to the workers to create a healthy condition in the industrial belt. The Government is maintaining a careful watch on the situation and ensuring the arrangement for the protection of the rights of the labourers.

We are firm on the programme to further strengthen the rural development programme and achieve self sufficiency in food in two years. To achieve the goal agriculture is being given the top-most priority.

In the agricultural field it is encouraging to find that the area of cultivation of mustard crop increased this year to six lakh 86 thousand acres from four lakh and 77 thousand last year. Compared to 13 lakh acres of land last year wheat is being cultivated this year on 14 lakh and 24 thousand acres. Compared to last year an additional one lakh acres of land have been brought under boro cultivation. It is my firm belief and Inshallah, this rate of progress in the agriculture will be maintained in future and we shall be able to face the food situation.

Half of our population is the womenfolk. Socio-economic improvement of the country can not be conceived without them. I have taken necessary programme and policy to ensure their due place of respect in the society and their participation at all levels of development.

Measures have been taken to amend the Muslim Family Law of 1961 with a view to bringing an end to repression and oppression on women. Side by side steps have been taken so that children are not taken out of the country to use them for various heinous purpose in the name of adoption. Meanwhile, two ordinances have been promulgated to this effect.

In the new industrial policy greater emphasis has been given to the expansion of cottage

industries in the rural areas for creating additional employment opportunities in the villages. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation has implemented a taka 80 crore cottage industry schedule.

You know a two-year emergency programme has been taken in hand by giving top priority to population control. Thirty thousand workers were given training to materialise this programme. The population control programme is such that it needs whole-hearted cooperation of the people for its success. We all must keep one thing in mind that the process of progress is being hindered time and again as a result of quick increase in the country's population.

Now, I want to speak a few words on the foreign policy. The basic principle of our foreign policy is to maintain friendly relations with all the countries. We believe that national development and regional and international problems can be solved in a peaceful atmosphere and through mutual understanding. With this end in view, I have already visited a number of countries and exchanged views with their leaders.

Keeping this in mind, I am beginning my visit to two brotherly countries from tomorrow at the invitation of the Amir of Kuwait and King of Morocco. I hope that the discussions with these leaders will Insh-Aillah strengthen further the existing relations between us.

Dear countrymen,

Now, I want to speak a few words on the education system. This has been agreed by all that the present education system is totally unsuitable to meet the requirements of the country. As a result it has become necessary to have an education system befitting an independent country. The Education Ministry has already prepared an outline to the proposed education system. As per the decision of the Council of Ministers, opinions have been sought from all

concerned on the outline of the proposed education system and questionnaire have been distributed among the members of the public. I appeal to you all, to put forward your valuable opinions and send back the questionnaire after filling them up.

I believe people of all tiers will give their well-considered opinion. Because we want to establish firmly the legitimate right of education through the proposed education policy. We want to create congenial and healthy atmosphere in the educational institutions and solve manifold problems.

During the last ten months I have addressed many public gatherings in the far-flung areas of the country and heard the view points of many representative bodies. But none had put forward the present problems of the students before us properly. I want to state with clear and open mind that as my colleagues and I do not cling to any political group and their views, we are capable of giving possible flawless solution to the long standing problems of the students. We have learnt from different sources that the students have demands. We are eager to know the subjects of their problems directly.

I have explained in clear terms before about the present condition of the country and the future programmes of the government. Besides the students

community, the whole interest of the nation and the country is involved in this respect. We have mentioned very sincerely time and again about our good intention.

I regret to say that none had so far approached us to inform about the dearth of books in the educational institutions and insufficient arrangements for sports and games. The elected student representatives have not mentioned that many seats of the residential halls have remained under the occupation of the old students as examinations were not held on schedule and that the newly admitted students have been living a miserable life.

I firmly believe that the great majority of the student community are eager to keep congenial atmosphere in the educational arena and determined to devote themselves to studies. We want to extend our hand of cooperation to them.

I have issued orders to hold all deferred examinations and take measures for publication of results in the current year with a view to preserving congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions. All including the students and guardians will be saved from the ordeal of uncertainty if it is possible to take examinations on schedule.

Dear countrymen,

The time for evaluation regarding the success of our various activities has not come

as yet. Neither we are demanding the credit. We know it very well that the fate of all of us is dependent on the future progress and prosperity of the country.

We are at the helm of running the affairs of the state and for that all others are bad we shall not say such thing under any circumstances. Patriotism is not the monopoly of anyone. The state administration has come to our hands at the critical juncture of the country. During the interim period we have tried to be sure on several matters. This is to take the administration and judiciary to the people through decentralisation assign the responsibility of the local government and development programmes to the elected representatives, introduce independent judicial system at thana level and recast the economic structure and establish the legitimate right of education and lastly our goal is also to firmly establish the democratic and fundamental rights of the people through the restoration of the constitution with full honours. Keeping in view the Islamic values and by starting the process of democracy through election in a phased manner. We shall consider ourselves fortunate if we can accomplish these objectives and offer 'Shukria' to Allah the Merciful.

Khuda Hafez

Bangladesh Zindabad

SITUATION IN FOOD PROCUREMENT STILL UNSATISFACTORY

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 29 Jan 83 p 3

[Article by Jaglul Alam]

[Text] With the poor yield of wheat and aman paddy, unsatisfactory stock position and uncertainty in fulfilling and foodgrain procurement target, the overall food situation in the country remains uncomfortable.

Earlier, the government set a target to produce 31.50 lakh tons of aus, 78 tons of aman, 31 lakh tons of boro and eight lakh tons of wheat this year. Subtracting 10 per cent of the total yield as seed, and wastage, it was estimated that the country this year will face a food shortage of 14 lakh tons. But consequent upon the poor harvest and outlook of wheat, aman and boro, the shortage would now reach about 23 lakh tons.

It has been estimated that only the production of aman, the major foodgrain, would lag behind its target by at least 10 lakh tons. The aman setback was caused by an unexpected drought in the northern districts and flash floods in seven major aman producing districts of the country.

Due to inadequacy of irrigation facilities, the production of boro paddy will fall short of target by three lakh tons.

Both the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) and the Bangladesh Krishi Bank had failed to provide adequate number of irrigation equipment to the farmers for which there was substantial loss of crops.

Some months ago BADC launched a program to set up 3000 shallow tube wells in Rajshahi district, 1500 each in Bogra and Pabna and 1000 each in Rangpur and Dinajpur. According to reports only 25 per cent of the target set in for Rajshahi has been achieved so far while achievements in setting shallow tube wells in Bogra and Pabna stands at only 10 and 15 per cent respectively.

On the other hand Bangladesh Bank set a separate target to install 13 thousand shallow tube wells in the northern districts of the country. Up to December last year, only 1100 shallow tube wells in that region have been sanctioned and installation of them is running at a slow speed, it is gathered.

Wheat

The position of wheat cultivation in the country this year seems to be unsatisfactory. The sowing season of wheat ended during the first week of December, last year. The government set a target to cultivate wheat in about 16 lakh acres of land while up to the last part of the season, only 10 lakh acres have been brought under cultivation, according to sources.

The main factor behind the poor progress in wheat cultivation was the acute crisis of wheat seeds throughout the country. According to a government estimate, the country this season required about five lakh maunds of wheat seeds while only 3.55 lakh maunds of seeds were distributed by the authorities.

Moreover, the system for distributing wheat seeds was not also proper. In many places seeds were sold at a very high price for which the poor farmers could not procure required quantity of seeds.

According to some agriculturists, the yield of wheat in the current season would have been better because of the rainfalls available in October and November. They said that the farmers were also enthusiastic to cultivate wheat because of the damages to aman and aus crops due to flood and drought. Inadequate supply of seeds, however, stands on the way to a sizeable production, they opined.

It may be mentioned here that the government's target of wheat productions failed last year also. During the previous year it was set to cultivate wheat in 25 lakh acres of land but actually only 21.50 lakh acres of land came under cultivation.

As a result, the production of wheat was also less by 55 per cent than was expected, it is gathered.

The other factors, for which the production of wheat was not satisfactory were untimely supply of agricultural output by the government and unfavorable weather.

Procurement

For poor production of crops and higher prices of foodgrains in the open market, the government's drive to procure foodgrains this year has also failed in most parts of the country. Up to the third week of January a total of 45,762 metric tons of foodgrains including only 350 maunds of aman were procured by the government while the target set for food procurement was at three lakh tons including aus, aman and boro, paddy and rice.

The procurement drive failed miserably in Pabna, Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong. The percentage of targets achieved in Dhaka was 2.93, Barisal 2.12, Khulna 1.42, Jessore, 0.64, Kushtia 1.48 and in Pabna only 1.94 per cent, it is learnt.

According to government statistics, up to the third week of January only 148 tons of foodgrains were procured in Pabna, 68 tons in Kushtia, 79 tons in Jessore, 342 tons in Khulna, 358 tons in Dhaka and only 89 tons in the district of Tangail.

It is reported that in most parts of the country, the farmers are not interested to sell their produces to the government procurement centers because the prices in the open markets are higher to that fixed by the government for procurement.

The government has fixed that each maund of paddy should be procured at 135 takas while each maund of paddy is now selling in the open market at about 175 takas, it is gathered.

CSO: 4600/1722

DELAY IN CHITTAGONG EXPORT ZONE MAY CAUSE LOSSES

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 83 p 2

[Text]

CHITTAGONG, Jan. 25 :

The delay in establishing Export Processing Zone in the port city of Chittagong may hamper sincerity of the government in attracting foreign and joint venture capital into the country under private sector.

The sluggish progress of works with the approved amount of Taka 300 crores for the Export Processing Zone has raised a big question among private entrepreneurs challenging firmness of the government in the implementation of its economic policies for inviting foreign investment and encouraging local investment in private venture.

The government which has been putting emphasis and trying utmost to attract foreign capital may face serious hurdles if the remaining bulk-work of the zone is not completed as soon as possible.

The uplift works at the EPZ site were kept suspended for over eight months in the recent past for financial constraints. The government, however, sanctioned Tk. 35,00,000 recently to run the remaining works on the partially constructed multistoried administrative block and two warehouses.

But Chittagong Development Authority which was entrusted to develop the EPZ is now facing acute problems with this inadequate amount. The construction firms, building the aforesaid structures still owe Tk. nearly 20,00,000 from the authority as outstanding construction

bills. Few days earlier the firms declined to carry on the remaining works unless their dues were paid. However, the CDA made them agree to continue the works paying dues partly.

The EPZ was scheduled to be completed by 1982 but 50 p.c. of the plot-development works has yet to be completed. Till to date only 92 plots were developed with earth work out of the scheduled 118 plots.

Though the establishment of the zone is still a long way, till now over 600 entrepreneurs from home and abroad have put up their proposals to the government to set up various plants, of them only 17 parties including one foreign and 3 joint venture parties were approved.

According to a source, various petitions regarding setting up industries at the zone are pouring in but none of them has yet been given any green signal to start works.

A group of private entrepreneurs told the New Nation that the sluggish progress in the implementation of the zone raised doubts whether the private sector would be patronised or neglected by the government.

The zone if at all established fully will require a total of over 10,00,000 gallons of water. Ctg. WASA at present is not able to meet the city requirement and the hope of water supply to the zone in future is bleak, according to many.

This CDA in cooperation with Ctg. WASA has chartered out a

plan to meet the water requirement. According to the plan, 2 deep tube-wells will be set up to supply over 12,00,000 gallons per day to proposed 2 underground and 3 elevated tankers.

It may be mentioned that so far one underground reservoir with a capacity of 3,00,000 gallons was built. The remaining one such reservoir and 3 elevated tankers with 1.5 lakh gallons capacity each are yet in the planning stage and the works to build those have not yet begun.

Moreover, roads criss-crossing the 658 acre EPZ were covered with brick soling in first half of last year but the works of foot path and drains have not yet been completed.

Besides, the partially constructed administrative block and warehouses only a tin-shed office house has been erected and opened for activities. All excepting one of the rooms of the house remain open where a clerk sits dozing and waits for any inquirer in this regard.

On the other hand, the EPZ authority has also another office at CDA building for which the authority pays Tk. 2,000 monthly. There is also a clerk available while the entire two-roomed office, studded with valuable furniture, remains virtually empty.

The private entrepreneurs opined that the works at EPZ should be completed in no time to pave the way for private investment towards increasing export from Bangladesh.

MINISTER URGES OPEN DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION POLICY

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Education Minister Dr. A. Majeed Khan on Thursday called for an "open discussion" on all aspects of the new education policy. He felt that all sections of people should come forward in placing their views and suggestions on the policy. The replies to the questionnaire which is being circulated for eliciting public opinion on the education policy, particularly its implementation mechanism, will be sorted out and collated for reconsideration of the policy itself within the next three months, he added.

Addressing a Press conference at his Secretariat office, the Education Minister gave an overall review of the existing state of affairs in all spheres of education in the country and termed it as being in a very pitiable and sordid condition calling for both short-term and long-term reforms and restructuring.

Dr. Majeed Khan stressed need for having a 'national consensus' on the education policy and stated that the purpose of circulating questionnaire was to gauge and understand the views and opinions of the cross-section of people about the new education policy. He opined that the implementation of the education policy could be facilitated only after the considered views of different sections of people including teachers, students, other professional groups and education administrators were known and taken into due consideration for initiating the course of action on the education policy itself.

He said that about 20 thousand questionnaires on the education policy had already been circulated. In all, one lakh questionnaires will be distributed, he added.

He was quite optimistic about having a wide and extensive response to the questionnaire circulated by the Ministry of Education for eliciting public opinion. When asked whether the initial "unfavourable response" of the students and a section of the educationists to the new policy would now lead to poor response to the questionnaire, he said that he would expect all sections of people to put their views and suggestions on the education policy which was a matter of national concern.

The Education Minister noted that one must first of all convince others about why the new education policy would need to be scrapped before making the demand for scrapping the policy. "I invite all those who have been demanding the scrapping of the new education policy to an open discussion" he added.

He pointed out that he had invited different student leaders who had earlier rejected the new education policy to come to a discussion with him on the pros and cons of the policy itself "but they have not responded so far to my invitation" he added.

Dr. Majeed Khan categorically stated that the new education policy with its greater accent on content, methodology and process of implementation would not have any restrictive impact at all. It will on the other hand facilitate the meaningful expansion of the literacy base in the country, he added. He pointed out that the cases of student drop-out at the primary level had recorded an alarming rise over the recent years. The enrollment at the Primary level in 1981 was 12 per cent less than that in 1978 and the actual enrollment was still less he pointed out. He failed to understand why the new education policy would not be a "pro-people one".

Introduction of Arabic

About the introduction of Arabic as a language course from Class I, he stated that the new education policy emphasised on the teachings of Islamiyat in Arabic script from Class I. Such an emphasis does not mean the introduction of Arabic as a language course, he noted. When asked whether this stand would now suggest a retracting move on the part of the government from its earlier stand on the introduction of Arabic, he replied in the negative while saying that it would mean only giving more flesh to the earlier policy decision. He added that most children in the villages learnt Arabic prior to entry into Primary school or at the very first primary class.

He said that for the non-Muslims the teaching of Islami in Arabic script would be substituted by the teaching of religious courses in Sanskrit or Pali as the case may be.

When asked as to how many languages were taught to the students at the primary stage in the developed countries, he claimed that besides English, French was taught to the students at the very Primary class in the UK.

Referring to the past efforts at education reforms in the country, the Education Minister noted that the report of the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission was the "most exhaustive" and "most recorded" one. He stated that the formulation of the new education policy was guided by the recommendations of the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission particularly with regard to Primary education curricula, decentralisation and integrated science education at the level of Class IX and X.

When asked to comment on the existing state of academic atmosphere in the educational institutions, particularly at the university stage, Dr Majeed Khan said that the government was trying to improve the situation. He mentioned that students today are leaders of tomorrow and they should come and give slogans 'with us and not away from us'.

CSO: 4600/1721

ERSHAD DESCRIBES GOVERNMENT POLICY ON STUDENTS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Jan 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad said in Dhaka on Monday that the Government was striving to introduce a system which would give the students a sense of security in their future career, reports BSS.

Addressing the students of Titumir Government College on the occasion of their annual prize distribution ceremony the CMLA said "We propose to address this problem in a realistic manner by identifying the requirements and possibilities of both the student and the nation".

He reminded the students that the nation wanted to see them not as a liability but as self-reliant and an asset. "You can overcome frustration and prove useful to the society by inculcating a sense of discipline, dedication and devotion to the pursuit of knowledge" he said adding "build yourselves into a source of hope and strength for the nation."

Gen. Ershad said amidst cheers "I have come to you not for any political exploitation or gain but to help you solve your problems. I want to see you established in life. I want to see you honoured in life".

He said "Allah has given me enough--the highest honour one can aspire as a soldier. I have nothing more to ask for. Now I want to give whatever I can in my humble capacity".

The CMLA urged the students to strengthen his hands and said "If you remain aloof and agitate from a distance I cannot get you correctly or the things in their correct perspective. I want to stand by you. You have so far kept yourselves isolated deliberately. But to me you are like my children and close to my heart."

He said it pained him to see that the students remained so much isolated leaving a wide gap between them and the rest of the society. "They are our integral part. How can we go without them?" he asked.

Gen. Ershad reminded the students that the Government belonged to them and there was no need for agitation to solve their problems. "Your problems

are my problems: you just tell us what to do and how best we can serve the country as one".

He said "let us march forward together and build a new Bangladesh; let us work together to improve the lot of the teeming millions. If we make concerted efforts we may achieve so many things".

The CMIA said when we were under colonial domination it was necessary for everyone of us to launch a movement to achieve independence. Again we had to wage a struggle and ultimately a war in 1971 and we achieved success after making supreme sacrifices and created an independent Bangladesh. But now it is time for us to channelise all our energies to the sacred task of achieving economic emancipation and national reconstruction, he pointed out.

Gen. Ershad said, "what is most needed today is to create a congenial atmosphere and stability which are the prerequisites to the country's over-all development".

He said that the government was now trying to bring about a change in the old colonial education system which had miserably failed to meet the requirements of the nation. The change is not for the sake of change only but was aimed at building a literate work-oriented society he added.

The CMIA said the government had realised that unless the colonial systems were replaced by the new ones which could meet the challenge of an independent country, prosperity would remain a far cry. With this end in view, he added, the administration and the judiciary had been decentralised and taken to the doorsteps of the people to mitigate their sufferings.

Gen. Ershad said that the students who were the backbone of the society could play a significant role in bringing about a socio-economic change which was badly needed by us to live as a self-reliant and self-respecting nation.

He referred to the rich potentials of our own literature and said, we must make serious efforts to enrich it further and present it even outside the country.

About the problem raised by the college, the CMIA directed the authorities concerned to submit a plan for building an auditorium which would be named after a noted martyr, one of our Language Movement martyrs. He also mentioned that the land in front of the college owned by DIT would be given for further development of this educational institution. He further assured of immediate initiation of the construction of the bridge connecting college with the main road.

Gen. Ershad concluded his speech by reciting a self-composed poem reflecting his confidence and attention for the students.

The show ended.

The offering of flowers
You have given to me
In return accept my assurance of life's inevitable triumph
The songs of love
You have sung for me
In return harken to the call of heart's dreams.
If you give me
A share of cherished values
In return I will offer you the taste of life-triumphant.

Later, the CMLA visited the college Students' Union Office where he was profusely garlanded by the representatives of students including the Vice-President and the General Secretary.

He also went round the college hostel dining hall and the common room.

The teachers and the students thanked the CMLA for his personal interest in the welfare of the students and teachers and development of educational institutions and assured him of their wholehearted cooperation.

The Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, also spoke on the occasion.

CSO: 4600/1715

BANGLADESH

MORE ON PROBLEMS IN SHARING GANGES WATERS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 29 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Kazim Reza]

[Text] The question of lowest flow of the Ganges is likely to get priority in the ensuing ministerial level meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission scheduled to be held next month.

Bangladesh is eager to get the assurance of the minimum guaranteed share in case of "exceptionally low flow" as enunciated under the guarantee clause of the previous agreement of 1977, signed during the regime of late President Ziaur Rahman. But the issue is yet to be solved as the 80 per cent guarantee clause was dropped from the memorandum of understanding signed October last.

In the next meeting scheduled to be held in the city, Bangladesh may press India for ensuring a 70 to 75 per cent flow of water in case of exceptionally low flow in accordance with the guarantee clause of the previous agreement.

Bangladesh officials hope to reach a specific point of agreement regarding this unsolved aspect of the problem. The issue, if it remains unsolved in the memorandum of understanding, effective for two seasons, is almost sure to prejudice a long-term solution to the Farakka problem.

Under the present memorandum of understanding and its earlier agreement of 1977, Bangladesh enjoys the exclusive right of the 63 per cent share of the total flow on the basis of 75 per cent availability at Farakka.

According to the earlier agreement and its guarantee clause, which expired in November last, Bangladesh deserved 80 per cent of its 63 per cent share in case of 'exceptionally low flow'. Accordingly, Bangladesh was entitled to get the whole of the available water in Farakka in case the water flow equals or recedes below the level of the said 80 per cent.

This guarantee clause was a check against the illegal and unilateral withdrawal of water by India in Uttar Pradesh in the upstream of the Ganges. The guarantee clause was also vital in ensuring normal flow of the Ganges water at Farakka and also the due share of West Bengal.

In lieu of the guarantee clause the memorandum of understanding held that, "it was further agreed that in case of exceptionally low flow during either of the next two dry seasons the two governments would hold immediate consultations and decide how to minimise the burden to either country." But Bangladesh officials observe that leaving aside all other factors, the sharing of burdens is a complicated technical problem. But the bitter experience of the past reveals that it would be nothing unexpected if the procrastinated process takes the whole season to solve the problem raised in any of the "ten-day exceptionally low flow period " And the present memorandum of understanding is valid for only two dry seasons.

Bangladesh successfully invoked the guarantee clause only 12 times out of 75 times of detected "exceptionally low flow" during the last five years. And hence Bangladeshi experts raise questions about the effectiveness of 'immediate consultations.'

CSO: -600/1722

CABINET DISCUSSES ALLOCATION FOR GANGES PROJECT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Kazi Monte]

[Text] The allocation for the proposed Taka 1131 crore Ganges Barrage Project may be enhanced in the revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the current fiscal year in view of what has been officially stated to be "consensus" of Bangladesh with its neighbouring countries on various issues.

The Cabinet in a recent meeting okayed a proposal submitted by the Irrigation and Flood Control Division to raise the original ADP allocation for the on-going preliminary works of the project.

The original ADP allocation for the project was fixed at Tk. 5 lakh which the Irrigation and Flood Control Division considers as too meagre to maintain the current tempo of its initial works.

and by putting forward the plea the division demanded enhancement of the annual allocation for the project from the original ADP allocation of Tk. 5 lakh to Tk 50 lakh in the revised ADP.

During discussion on the issue in the Cabinet meeting it was pointed out that the initial works of the project should continue because of "political reasons."

However, a prolonged discussion in the meeting led to a decision in favour of the enhancement of allocation in the

revised ADP for 1982-83, but approval was given to Tk 35 lakh instead of the proposed amount of Tk 50 lakh.

An approximate sum of Tk. 1.75 crore has already been consumed in little works which were done earlier.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) made a Tk. 5.23 crore implementation programme for the current fiscal year's Annual Development Programme. Of this amount, the foreign exchange component was Tk. 2.23 crore.

But the Planning Commission brought down the allocation of Tk. 50 lakhs as proposed at the preparatory stage of the ADP to a small figure of Tk. 5 lakhs as the project lost importance in the eyes of the decision-makers.

The project was conceived in order to create facilities for utilizing the Ganges water for irrigation. The total area of the irrigable land is 610 lakh acres while the area of the land that can be actually irrigated is 425 lakh acres only.

The total cost of the project was estimated to be Tk. 1131 crore including a foreign exchange component of Tk. 249 crore and the entire project is due to be completed in a period of 15 years.

The BWDB negotiated with a UK-based consultancy firm Messrs Sir William Halcrow and partners to prepare design of the project.

And the cost estimated to be required to complete the design works of the project involves foreign currency of about 8.54 lakh pounds and local currency of nearly one crore taka.

In the meantime, the present government changed its position vis-a-vis the project and began to rethink over it. A high-level meeting held on July 15 with the Planning and Finance Minister in the chair to discuss the agricultural projects of the Annual Development Programme resolved that the implementation of the Ganges Barrage Project had to be decided in a Cabinet meeting.

A meeting of the Zonal Martial Law Administrators (ZMLAs) that took place at the CMLA's Secretariat on July 20 went through a number of issues including the Ganges Barrage Project and a decision was taken there that such a messy project should be dropped from the ADP for 1982-83.

But the project has suddenly assumed new dimension of importance with the emerging relationship between Bangladesh and India.

It is considered by the relevant department to be the key to water resources development in the south-western region.

The BWDB believes that it

will not be difficult to line up foreign currency for such a project.

According to a competent source, it has become difficult to

continue the works of the project with the reduction of the ADP allocation from Tk 50 lakh to Tk. 5 lakh earlier.

CSO: 4600/1720

BANGLADESH

RESERVOIR SCHEME 'PUSHED UNDER CARPET' AT GANGES TALKS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 22 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Sirajul Hossain Khan]

[Text] On their multi-dimensional water dispute, Bangladesh and India are busy, at the moment, over preparing a work schedule for what they call the prefeasibility studies of the two sides' projects for augmenting the dry season flow of the Ganges. They have started, as though, de nouveau on the issue.

The joint committee of water experts of the two countries, set up by the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) at its Delhi meeting last month, had four days of talks on the subject in Dhaka ending last Monday. The committee has been given the task of making recommendations on the modalities of the prefeasibility studies and the terms of reference to the JRC.

The responsibility for this work, it will be recalled, was entrusted with the JRC by the 'memorandum of understanding' signed by India and Bangladesh during the talks between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad in New Delhi on October 7 last. The JRC then formed the experts' committee to do the job.

The joint-plan committee is to meet again before or around the time the JRC's ministerial-level meeting resumes in Dhaka next February 1. It was to complete its report within four to six weeks since December 24 (the day the JRC concluded its last session in Delhi).

According to the joint press release, issued Monday night at the end of the Dhaka talks of the experts' committee, it had detailed discussions to fix the modalities of the pre-feasibility studies of the Indian proposal for the Brahmaputra-Ganges link canal and the Bangladesh's scheme for building a reservoir in the Ganges in the upper reaches of Nepalese territories.

Nepal

But the JRC says, well, imagine that as without Nepal there could be no meaningful or useful talk or any talks whatsoever on the reservoir, the committee understandably devoted its deliberations solely to the Indian project for the link canal.

And if there was any discussion, at all, on the Bangladesh proposal, it was presumably a mere reference by the joint committee to it only for formality's sake.

The formality, again, was obviously intended to hoodwink the world outside the committee's meeting parlor and those who are not aware of the facts which have reportedly lately developed on the Ganges issue. In Dhaka, only one daily newspaper reported a little hint of what was going to be dealt with by the experts' committee.

Evidently, the overstatement in the joint press release about the "pre-feasibility studies of two sides' projects" is, in fact, an understatement or suppression of the truth that Bangladesh's project for the reservoir was cleverly pushed under the carpet of the meeting place in Dhaka.

Here, it may be noted that Bangladesh and India had agreed in 1977 to associate Nepal in tripartite talks on the question of constructing a reservoir in that Himalayan Kingdom wherefrom springs the river Ganges.

Nepal also expressed its willingness, time and again, to join the proposed trilateral endeavor for taming the mighty river toward the development of its water resources including the programs for increasing the dry season flow, irrigation and generation of hydro-electricity.

It is, however, now too old a story to be retold here how or wherefore India backed out from its commitment on the issue. But it is certainly a thing of concern that calls for searching, analytical discussion as to how have the Indo-Bangladesh negotiations on the Ganges water problem shifted its ground from the reservoir in Nepal to the link canal through Bangladesh.

Knowledgeable sources report that the World Bank has informed both India and Bangladesh of its readiness to place funds for the feasibility study of the link canal. These sources further say that certain communication from the World Bank in this behalf has prompted the current India-Bangladesh exercise on preparing a work schedule for the aforesaid pre-feasibility studies.

Similarly, had India and Bangladesh not been agreeable to the idea or program for a feasibility study of the link canal, the World Bank would not have ventured to offer funds for it. For, the Bank has always maintained that it would be guided by the agreement or advice of the concerned countries on the issue of augmenting the Ganges flow.

In other words, the world Bank stand has been that in the event of any agreement on the proposed reservoir or on the link canal, it would extend assistance to the project agreed upon.

The Indian question, therefore, is, Have Bangladesh and India reached any agreement or understanding on the link canal (under the Indira-Ershad Memorandum of Understanding) that has induced the World Bank to offer funds?

MUJIB'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER RETURNS TO DHAKA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 22 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Sheikh Rehana, the youngest daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was welcome home yesterday by Awami League leaders and workers at the Zia International Airport.

She was accompanied by her husband Mr Shafig Siddiqi, son Redwan and daughter Rezwana.

From the airport they drove straight to her father's house at 32 Dhanmondi along with her elder sister Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed.

In a brief speech before a large crowd in front of the house Sheikh Hasina cautioned the people that a conspiracy was being hatched by certain quarters to drag religion into politics.

She expressed concern at the prevailing economic situation which, she said, was going from bad to worse every day.

The Awami chief reiterated her demand that the trial of the killers of her father should be held on the soil of the country. She condemned all political killings. She called for restoration of democratic process in the country.

Awami League leaders who were present at the airport to receive Sheikh Rehana are Dr. Kamal Hussain, Mr Qurban Ali, Mr Abdur Razzak, Mr Tofael Ahmed, Mrs Sajeda Chowdhury, and others.

BRIEFS

CHINA STUDY COMMITTEE--An organisation named 'The Committee for Understanding China' was formed in Dhaka on Saturday in a meeting presided over by Mr Enayetullah Khan, according to a Press release. The meeting was attended, among others, by Messers Qazi Ghulam Azmiri, Anwar Zahid, Shafi Hossain Khan, Mohsin Shantrapani, Nurul Huda Mirza, Dr Munir Siraj and poet Samudra Gupta. Mr Mahbub Hasan Jamil and Prof Musa Ansari were elected Joint-Convenors of the organisation. The aim of the organisation is to hold review and discussions on China and bring out publications on China in view of strengthening friendly ties and cooperation between the people of Bangladesh and China. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 Jan 83 p 3]

MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS--London, Jan. 30:--Foreign Minister Mr. A. R. Shamsud Doha presided over a briefing conference of Bangladesh envoys stationed in Europe here last Thursday, reports BSS. The envoys who were present in the eight-hour conference are Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, High Commissioner in the United Kingdom; Mr. Mirza Rashid Ahmed, Ambassador in Soviet Union; Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mr. Saukat Ali, Ambassador in Federal Republic of Germany; Mr. A. K. H. Morshed, Permanent Representative in Geneva; Mr. Nazrul Islam, Ambassador in Yugoslavia; Mr. Manzur Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador in Belgium and Mustafa Kamal, Ambassador in Sweden. In the afternoon the Foreign Minister had lunch with Sir Anthony Parson, the recently appointed Foreign Policy Adviser to British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Jan 83 pp 1, 12]

SOVIET JUTE PURCHASE--Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) will export over 14,000 tons of jute goods to the Soviet Union. An agreement was signed between BJMC and Export Lion of the Soviet Union in Dhaka on Monday in this connection. [as published] With this agreement the total value of sale of jute goods by the Corporation to the Soviet Union so far during the current fiscal year would come to around Taka 316 million. The total earnings from export sale of jute goods to the Soviet Union during the last financial year came to only Taka 190 million. A BJMC Press release issued in Dhaka said that the Corporation had earned nearly Taka 329 crore between July and December 1982 by exporting jute goods to all over the world. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Feb 83 p 12]

IDA AID--Bangladesh will receive an SDR credit of dollar 7.3 million from International Development Association (IDA) towards developing qualified management personnel. The credit will be utilised by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA); the Faculties of Commerce at Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi Universities and the Bangladesh Management Development Centre to upgrade the qualification training; make curriculum more practical and job-oriented; provide equipment, textbooks and journals; strengthen faculty research, faculty-student exposure to problems of industry and expand and improve existing physical facilities at IBA. The project will increase the number of MBA graduates from the IBA from 80 to 240 per year by 1986 and by the same time inservice training of higher level of managers will treble from 300 to 900 annually. The number of management trainees at BMDC will rise from 1400 per year to about 2300. The IDA credit is for 50 years including a grace period of 10 years. It carries no interest but bears a small annual service charge of 0.5 per cent on the undisbursed balances of the credit and 0.75 per cent on the disbursed balances. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 83 p 1]

TEA EXPORTS UP--Export earnings from tea rose by 66 per cent to Taka 70.40 crore during July-December period of the current fiscal year as against Taka 42.48 crore in the corresponding period of the last year reports BSS. Bangladesh Tea Board sources said that 46 million pounds of tea were exported during the period compared to 39.16 million pounds during the corresponding period of 1981-82 fiscal year. The sources said that the sharp rise in export of tea during the period contributed in attaining 62 per cent of the annual target of export volume and 86 per cent of the target of export earnings. Major feature of the export performance of tea during the period is the rise of export of packet tea to 2.58 lakh pounds during the July-December period as against only over twenty thousand pounds in the corresponding period of the previous year. Foreign exchange earnings by exporting packet tea during the time stood at Taka 54.66 lakh compared to Taka 4.47 lakh during the corresponding period of fiscal 1981-82. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jan 83 p 1]

ANALYST DISCUSSES ISSUES OF NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Jan 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 27.

The drafts of the political and economic declarations drawn up by India for adoption by the non-aligned summit with some modifications will be released to member-countries simultaneously on Monday through their permanent representatives to the U.N. in New York and their diplomatic missions in Delhi.

The drafts have been prepared by India in its capacity as host to the forthcoming summit, in consultation with leading member-countries of the non-aligned movement to ensure the necessary consensus on most issues.

Senior Indian officials who have visited various non-aligned capitals have returned with the reassuring feeling that, in voicing their

views strongly on controversial issues like Afghanistan or Kampuchea, none of these countries is bent on carrying its dissent to the point of precipitating a crisis within the movement. It has been pointed out to them that they will be given full opportunity to express their positions without any hindrance.

Main issues: Apart from Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the other issues on which some sharply differing views are likely to be expressed are Chad, Western Sahara, Nicaragua, Falkland Islands, the Iraqi bid to host the next summit in Baghdad and the question of Korean reunification. The general procedure adopted at non-aligned conferences is that the chairman sums up the consensus after the discussion and

it is incorporated in the final declaration. Those who disagree with the chair's summation are entitled to enter their reservations.

But this time India proposes to adopt a different procedure particularly on Kampuchea to avoid a challenge from the floor by the dissenting countries which could set a bad precedent for the future. After all the points of view have been heard both during the plenary sessions and the closed door meetings of the political committee, the Indian chairman will probably declare that, as no consensus has emerged on who should take the Kampuchean seat, there is no alternative except to let the status quo prevail by leaving the seat vacant at this summit following the Havana precedent.

As regards Afghanistan, the effort will be to retain the formulation agreed upon at the mid-summit Foreign Ministers conference in Delhi in 1981, with some minor variations. The main emphasis will continue to be on the plea for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and cessation of all outside interference with a view to having the Soviet Union, the United States or Pakistan,

namely the big powers, to disengage themselves from the situation. India will continue to insist on the non-interference in the internal affairs of the country in terms of the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement. It will also continue to insist on the non-interference in the internal affairs of the country in terms of the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The pro-American countries are expected to put up a stiff fight against this attempt to single out the U.S. for mention in the Nicaraguan context, while making no direct reference at all to the three-year-old presence of nearly 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The Indian policy on Chad and Western Sahara is to follow the well-established convention of abiding by the views of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on all such issues. But the difficulty this time is that OAU itself is sharply divided over both these problems with the result that two successive attempts to hold its annual summit in Tripoli have failed due to lack of quorum.

The Iraq-Iran war by itself does not pose any problems for the Delhi summit, since the entire non-aligned community is united in its pleas to the two countries to end the conflict. But the Iranian bid to block any decision to let Baghdad host the next summit in 1986 will create difficulties since an informal commitment has already been made to Iraq while changing the venue of the current summit to Delhi.

In the absence of a consensus on letting Iraq host the next summit, several countries are expected to stake their claim. Among those competing for this honour is North Korea which has already started pressing its case.

The British have been pressing for some sort of mention of the right of self-determination of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands in any reference that may be made to this problem in the political declaration. But the Latin American group wants to go along with the Argentine stand calling for decolonisation.

The Korean issue is likely to figure in a slightly modified form with the primary emphasis on peaceful reunification. A reference will no doubt be made to the continued presence of American forces in South Korea, but without any strident demands for their early withdrawal to pave the way for a dialogue between the two Koreas on unification.

Bulky document: The economic draft is along the expected lines adhering closely to the stand taken at various conferences on the need for global negotiations, South-South cooperation, increased North-South flow of capital and technical assistance, pleas for increased quotas, revision of commodity prices and better payments procedures. Despite India's attempts to keep it a concise document, the draft has become quite bulky since it has to make suitable references to the stand already taken on all these issues, while pleading for a vigorous pursuit of these objectives.

As a host country, India is keeping in reserve some alternative formulations on sensitive political and economic issues to accommodate the views of different groups in the larger interests of the unity and cohesion of the non-aligned movement. These ideas will be spelt out during the conference itself depending on the trend of the discussions and the line-up of the various regional and ideological groups within the non-aligned movement.

GANDHI MOVES AGAINST INEFFICIENCY, CORRUPTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Feb 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, February 1.

Having initiated reforms in the party and the government, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has now turned her attention to the administrative front to fight corruption, inefficiency and callousness, which "bring a bad name to the government as a whole".

In her discussions with some of her colleagues in the government and the party as also senior officials, she has called for a change "in the political and administrative culture."

She has written letters to ministers giving clear-cut instructions on issues ranging from the upkeep of office buildings to the influence of the industrial and business lobbies in the ministries.

She has instructed all Central government departments not to allow extension of superannuated employees as well as their re-employment.

Mrs. Gandhi has said that the departments are now too liberal in seeking approvals of extensions and re-employment of such employees and pointed out that it causes frustration in the services and led to loss of initiatives.

The ministries should review even extensions already given for terminating them and if any minister favoured continuation of extension, he should give specific reasons and obtain fresh approval.

Mrs. Gandhi made it clear that her instructions would not apply to extension or re-employment in the case of defence personnel holding civilian jobs subject to an age limit of 35. It also did not apply to scientists.

The Prime Minister has also instructed that officers from the state cadres who have been in Delhi on extended tenures should be sent back immediately to their respective cadres after April 12. (As published)

She has also warned that if the officers' assignments shortly before their retirement so that their normal tenure could be continued.

She has laid down that henceforth no officer who has less than two years' service should be sponsored for foreign postings.

Noting that inter-office transfer of officers in the all-India services had become liberal, she has said that in future this should be allowed only in very rare cases where there was genuine hardship.

Surprise Checks

She met the secretaries of industry, commerce and shipping and transport and wrote to the ministers concerned. She also singled out one of these ministers for conveying to her that she was receiving complaints about the working of his ministry.

The Prime Minister told the minister that she had earlier in the day spoken to the secretary of the ministry and asked him to undertake surprise checks to ensure punctuality both at the beginning and after the lunch break and investigate charges of corruption and ensure improved performance of the ministry.

Mrs. Gandhi's identical letter to the ministers said: "A nation's image is, to a large extent, formed by the functioning of its Government offices. Unfortunately, our offices left much to be desired in promptness, courtesy and even punctuality in attendance and cleanliness."

Mrs. Gandhi said every case of corruption that came to her notice was looked into. She emphasised the need for efficiency and prompt disposal of papers to minimise chances of corruption.

Mrs. Gandhi also asked the minister to keep a more watchful eye on his officials—how well their performance would be taken into account at the time of their promotion.

Mrs. Gandhi also said with concern that inflationists had been found to be sympathetic for getting extensions to officers.

Mrs. Gandhi said that any such approach by inflationists on their part would have been likely to be palliated.

She said she had mentioned about the delays in the Delhi transport buses, long waiting time at airport terminals and queues at the office of the chief consular officer to imports and exports and business houses waiting to get copies of official letters and minutes.

Mrs. Gandhi pointed out that proposals from various ministries were sometimes delayed and that the public was suffering by business houses through long delays.

Mrs. Gandhi said she was very concerned about the delays in the functioning of the Government offices. She said she was very concerned about the delays in the functioning of the Government offices. She said she was very concerned about the delays in the functioning of the Government offices.

In this letter, she had come to know that an officer himself took the initiative to communicate to his subordinates the list of government proposals.

She said the people were also greatly bothered about the working of officials at the lower level. "They are made to come again and again for small matters and their letters remain unattended."

Mrs. Gandhi also recalled her earlier instructions to ensure punctuality, regular attendance and the discharge of work by government employees.

Cleanliness inside the offices and in the corridors was no less important, she stressed and called for reports from the ministries in regard to all these matters.

She said she had heard complaints that the public were asked to come repeatedly to government offices even to get routine matters cleared. This amounted to harassment and should stop forthwith. The people at large were overburdened with vexatiousness at the ground-level, she said.

In her last letter, she said: "I should like you to give a strict warning to your officers on the need to undertake regular inspection of cases under them."

"They should see that the employees come on time and do not doddle at their work. They should keep the place clean and be prompt and polite in attending to parties from the public."

"You should see to regular but unannounced inspection by your secretary or other responsible persons of various offices. You may kindly keep me informed about it from time to time," the letter adds.

CC: 1000/1000

[Article by Girilal Jain]

In the wake of the Congress 11 defeat in Andhra and Karnataka, it was necessary for Mrs. Gandhi to send out two signals to the people who still believe in her and are willing to support her. The first signal should have been that she was willing to heed the message which the people of the two southern states had sought to convey to her through the ballot box. And the second that she had not been thrown off her balance by the blow and would be able to work out a coherent plan of action. Instead, she has shown signs of being confused and unsure of herself. That much is clear from the way she has handled the Union Cabinet reshuffle and the election of the new leader of the Congress 11 legislative party in Maharashtra.

To begin with, Mrs. Murphy had a "hospital" for the sick calves on the island in Andorra and Kilauea. Apparently, she and her advisers, who all lived here, had tried to do a "hot" wet season to the same up — but a solution which would suggest that they have either failed to get to the heart of the problem or that they — but quite know how to deal with it.

[illegible]

strength of being his mother's son definitely offended the sensibilities of the people of the state who were already disgusted by the obsequiousness of all Congress (I) aspirants to office. And there can be no doubt that Mr. N. T. Rama Rao exploited this sentiment. But was this the main cause of the debacle?

Obviously not. In fact, there was no one main cause for the defeat. There were several causes — the selection of one wrong chief minister after another, constant feuds in the party making it impossible for the government to function, the absence of a leader who could produce even a semblance of order in the Congress (I). Mrs. Gandhi's unwillingness or inability to back firmly those she herself had placed in office and so on. If one wishes to sum it up all in one sentence, one would say that the Congress (I) lost in Andhra because it had given the state a corrupt and incompetent government — two points are important — and generally its leaders had made a spectacle of themselves. They had shown themselves to be men who possessed neither dignity nor integrity. The people of Andhra would not tolerate them.

Since a party was bound to provide training for the better educated and economically more advanced sections of society, who had already been moving away from it, and it was this a result from the fact that the 100,000 of the last half of the 19th century were prosperous coastal port and plains, it held that in the most backward parts of the state this fact may be sought to be

obscured by the talk of the alienation of Muslims and Harijans. On a surface view based on a crude guesswork the theory may be justified. But it will be interesting to try and find out which sections of Muslims and Harijans have gone away from the Congress (1). The chances are that a careful scrutiny will reveal that it is those who are beginning to do well who have deserted the Congress. (2). The strong are always the first to throw away the umbrella under which they have sought protection. Such sections have to be cultivated.

If there is some scope to dispute the accuracy of this assessment in respect of Andhra in view of the discredited regional character of N.T.R.'s Telugu Desam, Karnataka should even the issue. There Mrs. Gandhi had not changed one chief minister after another. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had not insulted Mr. G. Durga Rao in the presence of thousands of people, and a regional party has not swept the polls. There the Congress (I) has lost because a different and a reasonably well-informed Karnataka could not swallow the fraud and effrontery of men who dominated the Government and the party, after the exit of Mr. Devaraj Urs as chief minister in 1980. But Mr. Gandhi Rao, himself not a provincial in view of his representation, should then return the people's verdict of a "strong smugglers' party" and "weak".

The 1994 election has been a watershed moment in the history of the American political system, and it is likely to have a lasting impact on the way we elect our leaders.

the Indian states which the party has become. Such an effort would call for an even stronger and more resolute Mrs. Gandhi than ever before. She showed herself to be at that when she called for the resignations of her ministers, but only to engage in a halfhearted, ineffectual action which could not have made any impact. On top of it came the decision to replace Mr. Bhausaheb Bhosale as Maharashtra's chief minister and to find a successor.

What should have been Mrs. Gandhi's first priority? To give the state a reasonably clean and competent government or to demonstrate that she was no longer interested in imposing a chief minister on it? In rational terms, the first should have obviously been her main concern. But, no, she was more keen to prove that she would leave the matter to the Congress (I) legislature party. As things turned out, the state legislators made a reasonably good choice and the observers sent from Delhi handled the confusion somewhat better than it was created by Mr. Antulay rather well. Even so, it was a close shave. Mr. Vasant Rao Patil could well have lost. Indeed, there is some indirect evidence to suggest that Mrs. Gandhi and her entourage were reconciled to his defeat.

On the face of it, the reason why Mrs. Gandhi was prepared to take so serious a risk in so important a state as Maharashtra is obvious. She does not any longer want to be held responsible for the poor performance and reputation of chief ministers. But her decision raises some other disturbing implications—that she will not seek to stir dissidence and that she will not mind if a chief minister manages to keep his party legislators pleased by handing out largesses to

them as Mr. Antulay, Mr. Gundu Rao and some others have done. And does she seriously believe that she can escape responsibility for the actions of Congress (I) chief ministers, however they are selected?

The commentators may be exaggerating when they say that the "I" within the bracket in the Congress (I) is more important than the original name, but not much. The people have elected non-entities and unworthy men because of their trust in Mrs. Gandhi and they are going to hold her responsible for the actions of Congress (I) chief ministers and ministers. They are not likely to be impressed by her new found love for devolution of responsibility and therefore of authority. Indeed, it is not easy to believe that she is serious about devolution of authority. Will she in fact not take a hand in the formation of the new ministry in Maharashtra?

Restoration of Status

This is a plea for acceptance of responsibility, not for centralisation of authority which can lead at once to non-use and abuse. It has long been obvious that Mrs. Gandhi has taken too much on herself and that the result has been disastrous. Senior ministers wait for her to settle all issues, important and unimportant alike. This has virtually paralysed the administration in New Delhi. So the need for devolution of authority is clear. The question is: how is it to be done?

If Mrs. Gandhi is, indeed, serious, she has to begin in New Delhi. The key institutions over which she herself presides — the cabinet, the Congress (I) parliamentary board and working committee,

and the AICC — have all fallen into disrepute because they are no longer manned by men of stature and they no longer decide anything on their own. They just wait for her to tell them what she expects them to do. These institutions need to be restored to something of their former status.

It is also difficult to think of another prime minister in any worthwhile country who has so little assistance. For years, there has not been one man or woman of ideas around Mrs. Gandhi. It baffles Indians as well as foreigners that she is able to function at all in today's complex world. The White House in Washington has a staff of around 800 men. How many experts does Mrs. Gandhi lean on? The result is that crucial decisions are taken on the basis of hunch and hearsay. The cost to the nation must be pretty heavy.

It has not occurred to the advocates of decentralisation that the establishment of a competent set-up to assist the Prime Minister is also a form of devolution of authority. An effectively functioning cabinet can reduce the need for such a set-up; it cannot eliminate that requirement of modern government.

Democracy is a highly complicated form of government. It is impossible to practise it without effective leadership. This is particularly so in societies such as India undergoing rapid change. Leadership is also not a simple function which can be reduced to some simple slogans. It calls for balancing diverse and even contradictory demands. There can be no escape from this exacting demand in so heterogeneous a society such as ours. That democracy is not mass-bureaucracy applies as much to us as to any other country.

INDIA

FINANCE MINISTER NOTES 'MODEST GROWTH' IN ECONOMY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Jan 83 p 5

[Text] Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Saturday that there was no cause for panic on the economic front, reports UNI.

Despite several problems, the country was able to maintain price stability and a 'modest growth' in the economy and had overcome speculation, particularly in foodgrains and supplies.

He was inaugurating the New Delhi office of the Exim-Bank, which is the first office outside the bank's headquarters at Bombay.

Problems were there and at the same time measures taken were adequate to tackle them. It should be possible to maintain the tempo of development in absolute terms particularly in investment outlays, the Finance Minister said.

One should be concerned at "areas of problem", but any over-emphasis on the gravity of the situation there might create a wrong impression that a panic situation was prevailing, Mr Mukherjee said.

Exports were essential to maintain the tempo of development in view of the existing payment situation and growing need for foreign exchange.

In the view of the Minister, exportable surplus was irrelevant to Indian conditions. A part of the production should be earmarked while meeting the domestic demand only, he said.

Measures taken since 1980 to step up exports were yielding good results. Last year, the country achieved a six to seven per cent growth in real terms. In the context of growing protectionism in highly industrialised countries and continuing recession in Western market, India's achievement was noteworthy.

Mr Mukherjee said that the overall economic growth in the last three years had been near to the target. It would be possible to maintain the target over the next five-year period of the sixth Plan as a whole.

He added that while it is true that the economy is doing well we are not doing the best.

He warned that the world situation "may not be favourable to us in the future. We shall have to face the situation."

This called for vigorous efforts to maintain quality, strict adherence to time schedule and to increased competitiveness, Mr Mukherjee said.

Welcoming the Finance Minister Exim bank chairman R C Shah said between March and December last year the bank disbursed about Rs 2 billion as loan and issued guarantees valued at Rs one billion.

The bank now operated nine lending programmes covering the Indian exporter overseas importer intermediaries like Indian banks seas banks foreign governments and financial institutions. [as published]

New lending programmes were proposed to be offered in 1981 especially to Indian exporters. This should improve price competitiveness of Indian capital goods exports through upgraded financial packaging.

Mr Shah said since the bank was designed to act as the principal financial institution for India's international trade. The legal codes, fiscal, monetary and institutional framework merited a re-look to increase exports.

CSO: 460/1101

GANDHI ORDERS STEPS IN ECONOMIC PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Jan 83 p 4

[Text]

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has directed that the Integrated Rural Development Programme should be expanded to cover small and marginal farmers, reports PIL.

She has also desired that special steps should be taken to complete the programme of supply of drinking water to all problem villages before the close of the current Plan period.

The two schemes are part of the 20-point economic programme. The Government have been engaged for some time in a detailed review of the impact of the programme on the economically weaker sections of the population.

The Prime Minister has also directed that scheme for housing for the economically weaker sections of the population should be accelerated during the remaining years of the Plan period.

A team of senior officials of the concerned Ministries and departments of the Union Government have been engaged for several weeks in preparing schemes for implementing the above directives. It was officially stated on Sunday.

As a result of the exercise certain schemes have been formulated. Discussions at official level with some State Governments have also been completed.

The scheme for small and marginal farmers envisages the grant of subsidy for certain inputs for improving productivity. The scheme for additional housing is expected to be financed by commercial banks and implemented by HUDCO through State Housing Boards.

The scheme for supply of drinking water to problem villages was recently discussed with representatives of the FICCI and the trade and industry have readily come forward to finance the additional cost involved by adopting problem villages for the purpose, it was stated.

Discussions are being held with other representatives of associations of trade and industry to enlist their cooperation in adopting problem villages.

Before the formal introduction of the three schemes all over India, it is proposed to have consultations with the Chief Ministers of the State Governments.

FINANCE MINISTER TALKS WITH ECONOMISTS ; GNP DECLINE NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, January 27.

In his pre-budget discussions with leading economists today, the finance minister, Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, admitted that the rate of growth of the gross national product (GNP) as well as agricultural and industrial production would be lower in 1982-83 than in the previous year.

Mr. Mukherjee hoped the trade deficit would be lower than Rs. 5,793 crores in 1981-82.

This was the first of a series of pre-budget discussions by the finance minister. He will meet trade representatives on Saturday, industrialists on Monday and farming interests on Tuesday.

Preminent among the economists were Mr. L. K. Jha, Prof. Raja J. Chelliah, Dr. A. M. Khusro, Dr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao, Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah, Prof. P. K. Brahmananda, Prof. Sukhomoy Chakravarty, Dr. Hannan Ezeikel and Mr. I. G. Patel.

The economists suggested that investment in both the private and public sectors should be stimulated. Agricultural and industrial production should be stepped up. Administrative expenditure should be cut down. The budgetary deficit should be kept to the minimum. A powerful drive should be launched to improve the administrative efficiency and capacity utilisation in the public sector.

The finance minister said that in the first two years of the sixth plan, the average annual GNP growth rate was six per cent. In the current year, the adverse constraints felt in various sectors might affect the growth rate.

He said that agricultural production increased by 15.4 per cent in 1980-81 and by 11.5 per cent in 1981-82. In the current year, the kharif crop had been satisfactory but it was hoped that the rabi output would make up the deficit.

He said that in 1980-81, the growth rate in 1981-82 was 8.6 per cent. The rate of growth was an acceleration and in the first six months the rate was

...percent. This was largely on account of the fall in the production of cotton textiles, cotton yarn, tea, jute and railway wagons.

The finance minister maintained that there was no general recession in industry.

On the price situation, he said that inflation had been contained effectively. However, the government would keep a watch.

The finance minister invited the economists to suggest avenues to mobilise non-inflationary resources, incentives for generating more savings, and steps to tackle the balance of payments problem and to promote exports.

The minister also stated that since agricultural growth would be lower--not more than four per cent--in the current financial year, concerted efforts should be made to push it up. Special emphasis should be laid on increasing production of edible oils and pulses.

END

FINANCE MINISTER HOLDS PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

CALCUTTA: THE STATESMAN in English 28 Jan 83 p 1

(Text) New Delhi, Jan. 27.--Leading economists, who had a pre-budget discussion with the Union Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, here today, told him that since agricultural growth in the current year might be lower at 4%, the Government would have to make concerted efforts in 1983-84 to push up production and build up enough stock of foodgrain and edible oils to contain inflationary pressures.

The meeting between economists and Mr Pranab Mukherjee, was a part of the exercise the Government carries out every year to elicit views from different interests representing the nation's economy before the Finance Minister formulates his Budget proposals for the ensuing year.

The Finance Minister will hold similar discussions with trading interests on Saturday, with the representatives of industry on Monday and with farmers the next day.

According to an official release issued by the Finance Ministry, the economists recommended that effective action be taken to improve industrial production and cut down loss of man days.

They urged the Finance Minister that investment should be in productive sectors and that savings should be increased. The resources should be used to improve vital sectors like the railways, power and fertilizer.

On the question of economic position, the economists presented two sets of views. One was that since India's debt service ratio was low, the Government should not overly be concerned about the balance of payments prospects. However, efforts should be made to push up exports by taking steps like a liberal and steady import policy. The other view was that balance of payments position was uncertain. It was likely to worsen because in a recessionary world economy, exports would be restricted only to a limited extent. The Government would have to take a conservative view of the situation and limit its borrowings from the international market so that when the time for repayment of debt came, it would not be in an uncomfortable position. India's debt service ratio was low because of the recent policy of limiting borrowing from abroad.

The economists were unanimous in their views that the budgetary deficit should be kept to the barest minimum. Import bills should be reduced and maximum care should be taken to cut down consumption of oil and oil based products. Whenever needed, selective upgradation of technology should be taken up to make the country's exports competitive.

The economists agreed that reallocation of the resources should be made in those vital sectors of the economy which were necessary for industrial development. In other words, plan expenditure should continue to grow, but should be utilized more effectively and productively.

Earlier, Mr Mukherjee explained to the economists the state of the economy in the current year, with the main emphasis on the Government's achievement in containing effectively inflationary pressures.

The economists called by the Finance Minister for the discussion were Mr J. K. Jha, Professor Rajaj Chelliah, Mr A. M. Khusro, Mr C. M. Hanumantha Rao, Professor Malcolm Adiseshiah, Mr A. K. Bagchi, Mr I. Z. Bhatti, Professor P. R. Brahmanada, Professor Sukhomoy Chakravarty, Professor M. D. Chaudhuri, Mr H. Ezekiel, Mr R. K. Bazar, Mr Freddie Mehta, Professor M. A. Naqvi and Mr I. G. Patel.

MINERAL RESEARCH

THE STATESMAN In English 1 Feb 55

Text: Bangalore, Feb. 1.--The Governments of India and the Federal Republic of Germany have under a technical cooperation programme, decided to launch a joint project for creating pilot plant facilities at the Federal research laboratory here to carry out research on conservation of mineral resources and better utilization of low grade and inter-mine complex ores, according to Prof. T. K. Jena, director of the laboratory.

He said a Press conference that under the project, to be jointly completed in a few years by Indian and West German scientists, two pilot plants would be set up, one at the laboratory and the other at West German.

The project will involve a process for the beneficiation of inter-mine complex ores, low grade ores and also the recovery of various extra-ferrous metals by a waste water treatment for re-utilization and the treatment of effluents with particular reference to chromite ore fines.

Prof. Jena had been during a recent visit, a group of West German scientists was working at the research laboratory in these fields to exploit the rich mineral resources of the laboratory particularly in the field of low grade ores and development in the area of conservation of mineral resources.

The project is estimated to cost about 10 million marks. The inter-mine complex ores, which have been identified, are of a quality of similar to those found in Australia, in Africa and elsewhere. Prof. Jena said that the project will involve the development of a process for the beneficiation of low grade ores and the recovery of various extra-ferrous metals. The project will also involve the treatment of effluents with particular reference to chromite ore fines. The project will be jointly completed in a few years by Indian and West German scientists.

The project will involve a process for the beneficiation of inter-mine complex ores, low grade ores and also the recovery of various extra-ferrous metals by a waste water treatment for re-utilization and the treatment of effluents with particular reference to chromite ore fines.

INDIA

CPI REPORTEDLY TO REVIEW RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS-I

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Feb 83 p 14

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 1.--With the defeat of the Congress (I) in the recent Andhra and Karnataka elections, a small section of the central leadership of the CPI is slowly seeking "rethinking" in the party's policy of total hostility towards Mrs Gandhi and her party.

It is pointed out that the party congress at Varanasi in March last year witnessed a rapid decline in Mrs Gandhi's popularity. However, the congress was then opposed against the danger of "reactionary forces" replacing Mrs Gandhi's Government at the Centre. The defeat of the Congress (I) in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka did not bring gains to the Communists.

This small section has reminded the majority leadership that the CPI cannot countenance any loss of power by Mrs Gandhi and her party to the "reactionary forces". It will be the policy of the CPI to prevent such eventuality, it was said.

The central executive committee of the CPI will meet in Delhi at the end of this month. The National Council, the highest policy-making body of the party will meet in the first week of April.

The committee will review the defeat of the Congress (I) and the poor performance of the Communists in the Andhra and Karnataka elections. It will also consider the outcome of the elections in Assam. It will be in the context of the adverse results of the Andhra and Karnataka elections that the CPI's policy towards Mrs Gandhi will be pressed at the meeting of the committee.

Yashwantrao Chavan, a member of the central executive committee of the CPI, said in a weekly published from Delhi praised Professor R. A. Dandekar, a noted Marxist Indologist, for his recent article "containing criticism of the Congress (I) and its policy towards Mrs Gandhi during the freedom struggle and the contemporary period of crisis".

He said that the writing of Professor Dandekar certainly runs counter to the policy of the CPI, which recently dismissed the Soviet Union as a "bourgeois" country of an individual Soviet politician. The article, however, was written by Mr. V. K. Rajwade, an author of the book "The Communist Party of India and its support Mrs Gandhi and her Government".

GANDHI SCOLD DELHIERS FROM FOOD-GRANTING AGENCIES

New Delhi PATTON 1-Eng/Int 1 Day 37-10

7-10

REPITERATING charges of opposition parties, farming communal and regional feelings and India getting an unfair treatment from foreign powers and agencies, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Wednesday urged the voters of Delhi to give her party the mandate in the forthcoming local elections.

The Prime Minister warned the people against the divisive forces that sought to destroy the country's unity and asked them to strengthen the Government at the Centre to preserve the country and the Constitution.

On the second day of her campaign, Mrs Gandhi addressed public meetings at Kirti Nagar, Khirwar and Chander Chowk.

In her speeches, the Prime Minister touched international, national and local issues.

On the international front, she spoke of the discriminatory treatment India received from the foreign food-granting agencies like the International Development Agency, the Asian Development Bank, as also about the

attacks of the International Monetary Fund.

She charged that the agencies like the IMF and the IDA had a double standard for judging India. They were not willing to give aid saying that it would be sunk with no benefits accruing to the poor.

However, when they saw the good use to which the money had been put, the agencies took the plea that India had already made progress and needed no further aid.

Mrs Gandhi referred to the support being lent to regional and communal movements by some opposition parties as was evident in the case of Assam.

Mrs Gandhi put a poser to the people what would happen if all the Delhi residents were to demand that the refugees from Lahore and other places be sent back. She said that the Government could never allow this. It was willing to listen to the Assam agitation to an extent, but the Government would definitely not allow the Constitution to be violated.

INDIA

Min. of External Affairs, Ministry, State Ministers

Re: THE TIMES OF INDIA, 20 July 1954, p. 1

(Text: See below, paragraph 10)

On 19 July 1954, the members of the Council of Ministers after

discussion:

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ISSUES IN SHARING OF GANGES WATERS EXAMINED

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Feb 83 p 9

Article by J. K. Reddy,

Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 1

The new Minister of Irrigation, Mr. R. N. Mirdha, who has gone to Dhaka to attend the 24th meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission, will try to settle the differences between India and Bangladesh over the operation of the interim arrangements for the division of Ganga waters pending an agreement of augmentation of the flow during the dry season.

The standard schedule for sharing the flow between January and May was spelt out in the 1977 interim agreement, providing for a preferential pro-rata division of the waters which entitled Bangladesh to an assured minimum in normal circumstances.

But difficulties have arisen over the application of the formula in years when the flow fell far below normal. The Indian interpretation is that when the flow is less than 75 per cent, the available waters should be shared equally without detriment to the interests of either side.

Principle of equal priority: Bangladesh's contention has been that it should in all circumstances get a guaranteed minimum of 26,000 cusecs applying the principle of equal priority with only a marginal reduction. But the Indian idea of a 50:50 division below the cut-off point would give this country a slightly larger share than what Bangladesh was prepared to agree to during the previous discussions on the subject.

Though the 1977 interim agreement expired in November 1982, it was agreed during the Bangladesh Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen H. M. Ershad's visit to India in October last to extend this arrangement on the specific understanding that the two countries would make a determined effort to evolve a mutually acceptable scheme for long-term augmentation. The memorandum of understanding signed on that occasion provided for the completion of feasibility studies by March 1984 on the economic and technical aspects of the alternative schemes submitted by the two sides.

Bilateral arrangements with Nepal: As it happens, while the Indo-Bangla Commission is

meeting in Dhaka, the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, is visiting Delhi for a discussion on Indo-Nepalese relations which include the river waters problem. The Bangladesh strategy has been to internationalise the Ganga waters issue by proposing the participation of Bangladesh in these discussions, while India is resolutely opposed to it.

But India and Nepal have been discussing for years a joint utilisation of the waters of the tributaries of the Ganga through bilateral arrangements for both irrigation and power generation. The Bangladesh proposal is to build dams for storing the waters of these very rivers to augment the Ganga flow during dry season.

There has lately been a perceptible change in Nepal's policy on the river waters issue in the sense that it is no longer going along with Bangladesh's attempt to internationalise the Ganga waters problem. On the contrary, it is evincing a keener interest in coming to an understanding with India on the use of these very waters which Bangladesh wants to utilise for its benefit.

Teesta waters issue: Another controversial issue that is being dealt with by the Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission at its present meeting in Dhaka relates to both the long-term and short-term uses of the Teesta river waters. An interim agreement is being negotiated to provide for a varying ratio with a fairly wide margin of error to compensate for an unexpected fall of the flow beyond a point.

While India is claiming 65 per cent, Bangladesh is pressing for a 40:40 division with a 20 per cent margin of error and West Bengal wants to concede only 20 per cent to it. The alternative proposals under consideration range from 35:35:30 to 45:35:20.

The long-term uses of the Teesta waters bristle with similar complexities since there is not enough water for building two separate barrages. The Indian plan is to have a barrage for irrigating 5.4 lakh hectares, but Bangladesh has in view a more ambitious project for cultivating 9.23 lakh hectares.

DELHI ANNOUNCES POLICY DECISION ON JUDICIARY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Jan 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 28.—The Government today announced its policy decision to appoint Chief Justices of high courts from outside the States concerned.

The announcement, which also laid down certain broad guidelines, said that this step had been taken "pursuant to a persistent demand from responsible bodies, after considering various aspects of the matter and after consulting the Chief Justice of India".

The move to appoint Chief Justices and at least a third of the judges of high courts from outside the States was initiated and vigorously canvassed by the former Law Minister, Mr Shiv Shankar. He had often quoted from an earlier report of the Law Commission to justify such a step. But several legal experts had felt that the Minister had not put the commission's recommendation in its proper perspective and had also expressed the fear that transfers could be used as a punitive weapon by the executive.

As far as the transfer of Chief Justices of high courts was concerned, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court had earlier maintained that he would not agree to

wholesale transfer of Chief Justices but would agree to examine each case of transfer on its merits. Today's announcement, which comes about a month after the Supreme Court's judgment in

the transfer of judges case, pointedly refers to "the consultation with the Chief Justice".

In this context the two relevant points in the judgment in the judges case are that "consultation" need not mean consent, and that the executive has the last word in the matter of transfer of judges.

The guidelines that would be followed while implementing the new policy would be: "For purposes of elevation as Chief Justices the inter seniority of puisne judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own high courts and subject to suitability, they will be considered for appointment as Chief Justices in other high courts; a Chief Justice who has only one year or less to retire may not be transferred to another high court; and a puisne judge in a high court who has one year or less to retire when his turn for being considered for elevation as Chief Justice arrives may subject to suitability be considered for appointment as Chief Justice in his own high court if a vacancy is to occur in the office of the Chief Justice in that high court during that period".

The announcement also said that while implementing the policy the appointments and transfers shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article 222 of the Constitution as the case may be.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF NIGERIAN PRESIDENT

New Agreements Signed

[Text] New Delhi, January 27.

India and Nigeria today agreed to increase and diversify bilateral trade, with the latter country importing more Indian goods since the existing trade balance is against this country.

The two countries signed a trade agreement, a protocol for co-operation in science and technology and ratified the cultural agreement signed between them in Lagos last year.

The agreements were signed in the presence of the visiting Nigerian President, Mr. Shehu Shagari, and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who had wide-ranging discussions on the world situation and bilateral relations over the last three days.

The trade agreement was signed by the commerce minister, Mr. Shavraj Patil, and the Nigerian commerce minister, Mr. B. M. Yusuf. The two countries will accord the most-favoured-nation treatment to each other in imports, exports, customs duties and taxes.

Joint Panel

A joint committee will be set up to implement this agreement which will be automatically renewed for a further three-year period. It will compare trade statistics on a yearly basis to reduce imbalance and suggest steps for expanding economic co-operation.

The two sides identified the commodities that India could export to and import from Nigeria. The possible Indian exports include rice, jute, mica, iron ore, tea, cotton, machine tools, light engineering and industrial goods.

Besides, India has offered to build cement plants, cotton textile mills, transmission line projects, power plants, farm machinery, coastal vessels and ships.

The Nigerian side offered to export to India rubber, zinc, crude, petroleum products and liquefied gas.

Under the protocol on scientific and industrial research, India will train Nigerian personnel and collaborate in joint research projects.

The agreement was signed by Dr. G. S. Sidhu, director-general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Mr. T. O. Asiawaju Dada, high commissioner of Nigeria in India.

Later, addressing a press conference, the Nigerian President said that Nigeria would extend its fullest support to India to strengthen the non-aligned movement.

He appreciated that India had agreed to host the non-aligned summit since the "outside forces did not want the summit to be held at all." The non-aligned nations should close their ranks and put up a united front.

In reply to a question he said he had discussed disarmament and military intervention with Mrs. Gandhi. He emphasised the need for continuing the struggle for a new economic order in the spirit in which the fight against imperialism was carried on earlier.

Mr. Shagari was confident that differences within the African community over Chad and the Sahara would be resolved and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) would demonstrate its solidarity.

The Nigerian President denied that there were any political prisoners in his country or that illegal immigrants were being shot at.

Report on Communique

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Jan 28—India and Nigeria today reiterated their conviction that the non-aligned countries, linked together by a shared perspective in international relations, represented the "one real hope for steering the world towards peace and security and away from the path of confrontation and strife".

In a joint communique issued here at the conclusion of the Nigerian President, Mr. Alhaji Shehu Usman Abba Shagari's Indian visit, the visiting leader and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi have expressed their belief that by strengthening the movement, its unity and solidarity, and by asserting their common commitment to its ideals and principles, the non-aligned would be reinforcing international peace and security. They reaffirmed their faith in the policy of the movement and their commitment to the principles and objectives as elaborated in the various meetings of the non-aligned countries.

It was their hope that the New Delhi summit "would be a great success and will achieve its aims and purposes", the communique quoted the two leaders as saying.

While stressing the imperative-ness of the need to mobilize world public opinion to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the two leaders expressed their alarm at the stockpiling of lethal weapons, particularly in the nuclear field which, in their view, posed a great threat to the survival of mankind.

In this context the President and the Prime Minister expressed grave concern over the increasing escalation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean region. They urged intensification of efforts for the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace as suggested by the U.N. They demanded that the Diego Garcia base be returned to Mauritius.

Referring to the Afghan crisis rather obliquely, as "recent developments in south-west Asia", the two leaders viewed these as a natural consequence of the aggravated tensions and great Power confrontation in this region "which posed a threat to the entire Third World". They reaffirmed their belief in the "cardinal principles of non-intervention and

non-interference in the internal affairs of all States.

"They called for a political settlement on the basis of the withdrawal of foreign troops and strict respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of Afghanistan". (For India the reference to withdrawal of "foreign troops" against the previous formulation of "all foreign troops" is a marked departure).

The joint communique criticized the role of Israel and demanded the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon and the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinians. They urged immediate negotiations for a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the West Asia problem. They deplored the continuing fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq.

The communique expressed strong condemnation of the racist South African regime and its continuing stranglehold on Namibia. They demanded the immediate release of the African leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

They called for the resumption of the North-South dialogue and encouragement to South-South cooperation in the meantime.

INDIA

REPORT ON REPUBLIC DAY RECEPTION AT ISLAMABAD EMBASSY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, January 27 (UNI): The Pakistan President, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, attended the Indian Republic Day reception held at the residence of Indian ambassador, Mr. K. D. Sharma, in Islamabad yesterday.

This is the first time that a President of Pakistan attended the celebrations.

Mr. Zia told ambassador Sharma that "we look forward to fruitful cooperation with India during the coming seventh non-aligned summit in New Delhi."

Gen. Zia congratulated Mr. Sharma and asked him to convey his sentiments and good wishes to Indian leaders.

Others who attended the reception included the Pakistan foreign minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan; finance minister, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and local self minister.

Gen. Zia, talking to newsmen at Mr. Sharma's residence, said "it is my honour today to be the first president of Pakistan to attend the Indian Republic Day reception." He told the newsmen: "Please share India's rejoicing on its national day."

Gen. Zia freely mingled with the large number of dignitaries present at Mr. Sharma's residence and congratulated the Indian embassy staff.

PTI adds: Diplomatic observers in Islamabad attach great significance to Gen. Zia's presence indicating as it does a new high in their chequered relationship.

Gen. Zia also expressed a desire to visit St. Stephens College in Delhi where he had studied for four years and also to meet some old friends during his March visit.

CSO: 4600/1595

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH VIETNAM--India has offered cooperation to Vietnam in developing its water resources. The offer was made by Irrigation Minister Ram Niwas Mirdha during his talks with the four-member Vietnamese delegation in New Delhi. The delegation, which is headed by Vietnam's vice minister for water resources, Dinh Gia Khanh, is on a tour to study the irrigation system in India. [BK180537 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Feb 83]

COUNCIL OF ECONOMISTS--A five-member council of economists has been set up to advise the prime minister on specific issues relating to economic policy and development. The council will be headed by the former member of the Planning Commission, Prof Sukhmay Chakravarty. It includes Dr K.N. Raj, Dr Manmohan Singh--governor of the Reserve Bank, and Dr A.M. Khusro and Dr C.H. Hanumantha Rao--both members of the Planning Commission. Apart from advising the prime minister on such specific economic and development issues, the members of the council have also been authorized to bring to the government's consideration other important issues which they think call for action. The council has been constituted for a period of 2 years. According to an official spokesman, the recommendation of the council will go directly to the prime minister. He said the council is essentially an advisory body and it will not duplicate the functions of the Planning Commission. [Text] [BK170700 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 83]

NATIONAL INCOME RISES--The national income recorded an increase of 5 percent in real terms during 1981-83. This increase is over and above the marked increase of 8.1 percent achieved in the year before. Thus, the average annual growth in the first 2 years of the Sixth Plan period has amounted to 6.6 percent. According to quick estimates made by the national statistical organization of the Planning Ministry, the per capita income was estimated at 720 rupees in 1981-82. This is 20 rupees more than in the previous year. The total national income last year was over 498 billion rupees against 474 billion achieved in 1980-81. The increase in national income was attributed to the moderate improvement in agriculture, mining, electricity, gas, water supply, transport, storage, communications, trade, banking and insurance. The estimates show that foodgrain production went up by 2.7 percent in 1980-81. The output in mining was 12.5 percent more and the performance in the power sector registered an increase of 10.6 percent. Except forestry and fishing, all other sectors contributed to the rise, the estimates said. [Text] [BK100419 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Feb 83]

SUDANESE AMBASSADOR--New Delhi, 4 Feb (SUNA)--Indian President Zail Singh received here today the credentials of 'Abd al-Mun'im Muhammad Mustafa as Sudan's ambassador to India. [Text] [JN141604 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 14 Feb 83]

ENVOY TO BAHRAIN--Sharat Kumar Bhatnagar, Indian ambassador to Bahrain, on 24 January presented his credentials to Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah. Speaking on the occasion Shaykh 'Isa said that he was looking forward to visiting India in March at the time of the nonaligned summit, adding that he fondly remembered his last visit to New Delhi and Bombay in April 1981. The two countries had very strong ties he said. [Text] [BK271620 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0855 GMT 25 Jan 83]

AID FROM JAPAN--New Delhi, Feb. 1. Japan will extend grant aid totalling Rs. 15.27 crores (yen 3,634,653,000) to India for social environment improvement project and debt relief. Of this 1,500 million yen would be for environment improvement project. The notes on this were exchanged today between Mr. Eikichi Hara, Japanese Ambassador here and Mr. M. Narasimham, Secretary of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Feb 83 p 16]

NAGALAND MINISTRY CHANGES--Kohima, Feb 2 (UNI)--Nine more Ministers were inducted into the S C Jamir ministry in Nagaland today raising its strength to 23. Governor S M H Burney administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new incumbents--three Cabinet ministers and six ministers of State--at a brief function at Raj Bhavan. This is the largest ministry to Nagaland so far which includes, for the first time, a non-Naga member, Mr A Hussain. The Cabinet ministers are: Mr N I Zamir, Dr Vizadel Sakhrrie and Mr Rothrong. The ministers of State are Mr Kihoto, Mr Puse, Mr A Hussain, Mr Niklem Konyak, Mr Shekimo Sema and Mr Punhjak Phom. Mr Sherimo Sema is the president of the Naga and Youth Congress-I. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Feb 83 p 4]

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DETAILS OF IRAN'S NEW OIL PRICING POLICY EXPLAINED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 83 p 18

[Interview with Minister of Petroleum Mohammad Gharazi by KEYHAN on 13 Feb 83; place not specified]

[Text] The minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran participated in a press, radio and television interview yesterday afternoon, announcing the policy of Iran regarding the price of oil.

The economic correspondent of KEYHAN reported in this connection:

The minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred in the beginning of his talk to the announcement of the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic in regards to Iran's views on the reduction in the price of oil and said: These days, political activities in the area of oil are at issue and much activity has taken place in this regard. Hence, it was necessary for the Islamic Republic to express its views directly. For this reason, an announcement was made by the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran as follows.

The Iranian Ministry of Petroleum believes that the steady decline in the price of oil in the last few weeks is artificial and that for the following reasons, the prices of crude oil must not be decreased.

1. Since the beginning of the current Christian year, the average daily production of the member countries of OPEC has been under 16 million barrels. This shows that in order to put pressure on the oil producing countries and cut prices, the industrial countries are using a significant amount of the oil reserves which have been created as a result of the over-production of oil of Saudi Arabia. These reserves will be used up in the short term and, once again, demand for OPEC oil will increase.

2. In addition, some of the developing oil exporting countries have a debt of about \$160 billion to the world banks. The reduction in oil prices will increase the problems of the oppressed oil producing nations and will cause more disruption of the international economy.

3. The policy of the Ministry of Oil has always been that oil prices should be somehow determined in order to enable the gradual entry into the market of oil-substituting energy and to prevent the uncontrolled use of depletable oil. In this way, other sources of energy will gradually replace oil as the world oil reserves decrease. If the price of oil is lowered, the world's dependence on cheap oil will increase and before long, the world will face another economic crisis.

Considering the above issues, the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum believes that an emergency meeting of the OPEC oil ministers must be held and the following decisions made.

1. The base price of \$34 per barrel of crude oil which has been approved and ratified in the previous conferences must be ratified once again.

2. A ceiling for OPEC production must be set at 17-17.5 million barrels per day for 1983.

3. The share for each one of the countries must be declared in accordance with the agreement reached in last month's consultative meeting in Geneva.

4. Concerning other issues as well, a group of experts of the member countries must immediately hold a session and present their views to the conference.

The minister of oil referred to the export of OPEC oil to the West and said: Since the last meeting, the Western countries have tried to purchase less oil from the members of OPEC. The level of production of the OPEC members before the recent conference was 19 million barrels daily, which, under present circumstances, has been reduced to 16 million barrels. We believe that the consumption in the market is much more. At the present time, the oil consuming countries are using their reserves and in this way, are exerting pressure in order to cut the oil per barrel price. The price of oil will be set at \$34 per barrel. In our opinion, what has taken place thus far has been bluffing on the part of others. We will insist on the \$34 price and support it.

Referring to Iran's proposal concerning the OPEC production ceiling and said: Iran has proposed a ceiling of 17-17.5 million barrels of oil per day for the 13 members of OPEC,

if while 4-4.5 billion is allotted for Saudi Arabia. Iraq
opposes and insists on this ceiling. The resolution of this
issue will solve the main problem of OPEC.

Concerning the next OPEC conference, he said: I think we will
have a new conference ahead of us. Of course, we did not propose
this conference, but we support it. A future conference can
achieve results and eliminate this chaotic situation. But,
first, it must be said in regards to this conference that the
experts must reach an agreement before the conference in regards
to such issues as quality and price of oil in order to avoid the
problems which occurred in the recent conference.

Then, concerning the smoke columns reportedly observed in the
Persian Gulf, according to the world mass media, the minister of
petroleum said: Since 24 hours ago, the mass media report that
columns of smoke and fire have been observed in the Persian Gulf.
Iraq believes that the Iranian oil facilities are burning. Thank
God, our situation at the present time in the south, especially
in the Gulf loading area, is problem free. We have no fire
burning in these areas. Iraq's claims so far have all been
false, including the rumor of burning Iranian oil facilities.

Then, he referred to the recent OPEC conference and said:
In the last reports of the recent conference, 7 of the 13 members
accepted the \$34 base price and the production shares,
including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab
Emirates. But, suddenly the issue of quality was raised in the
conference and met with objections by the countries which have
rich quality oil. Here, Saudi Arabia proposed that the base
price be \$40. Of the 13 OPEC members, 4 favored the \$34
price and the other 9 countries resisted it. At the present
time, I think that these countries also support the base price
of \$34. Recently, we have rarely heard about the change in the
base price of these countries. We hope that these countries also
support the \$34 price in the interest of their own nations.

Concerning the oil reserves of the oil consuming countries, the
minister of petroleum said: It is said that there are oil
reserves for the consuming countries of between 70-120 days. In
fact, during the last 4 million barrels of oil have been stored, of
which the industrial countries are consuming 2-3 million barrels
per day. These reserves will gradually decrease and by the
middle of this year or the beginning of next year, with the
effect of the production ceiling and the base price for oil,
reserves will increase.

Concerning the daily production of Iranian oil, he said: It is
our duty to support our revolution in any way we can. Hence, we
will try to protect and guard the Islamic revolution as long as
the war continues. Some of our oil export comes from the sale of

oil. Presently, we are producing 3.2 million barrels per day. We will maintain this level of production until the positions of the other OPEC members in regards to the production ceiling, base price and the issue of quality are determined.

Then, concerning the economic relations between Iran and Japan, Engineer Javad Mohammad Sharzai said: Japan has had long standing economic relations with Iran. Unfortunately, since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the various political inclinations of Japan have changed to such a degree that in certain cases, Japan has not lived up to its pledged and agreed upon responsibilities. I think that it has been under political pressure in this regard. Therefore, we will create restrictions for Japan until her position is clarified for Iran. Here, I emphasize that if the government of Japan is unable to have its large companies carry out their responsibilities, the government of the Islamic Republic will find a market elsewhere.

Concerning the implementation of the policy of the Islamic Republic, the minister of petroleum said: We rely on one policy alone, that is the Iran's line. Anywhere the Islamic Republic is asked to implement its policy, it will not sway from the Iran's line. The Iran itself is an expert on these issues and we will follow its line.

Responding to the question of one of the correspondents who had asked about the situation of Engineer Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, the minister said: Last year, we were informed that, thank God, he was released. It is well. We hold Saddam responsible for the lives of all those who are prisoners in Iraq. If, God willing, my hair should come to them, the responsibility is that of the government and the Ba'thist regime of Saddam.

Responding to the attack on the Iranian oil loading facilities by Iraq, he said:

According to the office of research and equipment of the Islamic Republic, Iraq is preparing to attack Khark or the oil loading facilities. During previous years, this steps were taken by Iraq's agents. A large amount of money has been taken from the pockets of the Iraqi nation without any results. In the revolution, we intend to make use of every kind of instrument. The revolution is not based on becoming more and more powerful; it is based on defense. And with God's help, we have defended our Islamic country thus far. Presently, our military capability is much better than in the past, before the revolution. Our technical experts are also working better than ever before.

Responding to the threat of Khomeini, the minister of petroleum said: The Persian Gulf is our highway and we will by no means allow it to be closed. Such threats are constantly being made in order to frighten the Persian Gulf states. We will definitely equal it to defend Khark in every way.

'AL-AHRAM' INTERVIEWS BANI-SADR ON IRANIAN SITUATION

PM180933 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Feb 83 p 5

[Interview with Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, former Iranian president by Mustafa Sami in Paris on 19 February]

[Excerpts] [Question] Yesterday was the fourth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in whose leadership you took part and in which you played an important role alongside Ayatollah Khomeyni so that it would succeed. Do you think that the revolution has achieved its objectives and followed the course set for it? How do you view Iran's future?

[Answer] The answer to the first part of your question is given in my book which I published last week.

(Here he presented to me a copy of his book "THE BETRAYED HOPE" which he began writing in Iran and completed in Paris.)

You have probably seen French television today presenting the Iranian people's celebration of the revolution; the streets were quite empty and obviously the masses who staged the revolution 4 years ago have abandoned it today.

Khomeyni's regime has isolated itself from the people, who daily see their son fall victims to the scaffolds and prisons and detention camps, which now hold between 50,000 and 60,000 citizens.

The masses are demanding a return to normal life, the restoration of freedom and respect for the citizens' rights and wishes. In other words the country should be ruled democratically.

Nevertheless, the hope for change is very slim or almost nonexistent because there is no organized political power capable of change. The political cadres are either on the battlefield or in jail or have been executed. Hundreds of military people tried to stage coups and were executed by firing squads. The blind repressive regime refuses to see any other view.

Khomeyni should abandon his static and corrupt policy and should institute democratic rule based on the rules of the Islamic Shari'ah.

The country has gone back to the days of the shah's rule. Never in the blackest days of its history has Iran seen such economic collapse as at present. Corruption and bribery are the regime's basic rule, and commodities are found only on the black market at 10 times the normal price.

[Question] What are the possibilities of change, that is a change of regime?

[Answer] It is possible to overthrow Khomeyni's regime, which is rejected by the great majority of the people, but the problem is that there is no other substitute being proposed on the Iranian scene.

I cannot speak about the future. In order to be able to judge the future I must have full information available to me and I need to be up to date with events in Iran's streets and following up elements of potential change. But since I came to Europe the trend of events has been heading for a steep slide that I expected before I left Iran.

This is in addition to the destruction and ruination to the national economy that the Iraq-Iran war has brought following the bombing of the oil wells and the reduction in oil revenues. The economic development plan intended to develop the country has been stopped and all investment plans have been halted. This is in addition to the social problems resulting from this war, which Khomeyni exploits in order to strike at those who oppose him, thus causing his isolation.

[Question] How, in your opinion, will the war with Iraq, which has been going on for 2 years and has brought such destruction, as you say, come to an end?

[Answer] Ayatollah Khomeyni has rejected all solutions and Arab and international mediation to stop the bloodshed between two Islamic countries in which so far more than 70,000 men from both sides have fallen victim, in addition to the economic losses and numerous social problems.

How can Khomeyni be convinced of the futility of continuing with the war? There is a fact that some people seem to forget, which is that it was Iraq that started the war and not Iran.

But there are many internal reasons for continuing the war; these are social, economic and political.

1. The social reasons because there is an unemployment problem. There are 10 million unemployed Iranians, half of whom have been absorbed by the war effort. Half a million of those are fighters in the army and behind them there are 1.5 million who manufacture the instruments of war for them and support them.

2. Those jobless people working in the army returned to civilian life it would be easy to enlist them in cells hostile to the regime. Khomeyni and his establishment are well aware of this.

There is an internal political reason: If the war ends now without achieving any results how can Khomeini explain to the Iranian people the reasons for its continuation and his insistence on it for 2 years and explain the great damage inflicted on the country as a result of it?

It is a dirty war by any standard and unfair: it is doomed to failure.

There is a possibility for an end to the war being discussed now, which is to wait for Khomeini's death. Although I do not think that any other person succeeding him will end the war. Despite the fact that there is nobody else in Iran who is a candidate to succeed him, most probably his successor will be from the same establishment and will face many internal problems and it will therefore be better for him for the war to continue.

Only one solution in my view would put an end to this war, which is to mobilize all the pens of writers, journalists and intellectuals in the Islamic world and make world opinion bring pressure to bear on Khomeini in order to force him to stop the war that has brought severe losses to two Islamic countries.

This is the responsibility of all the intelligentsia in Europe, the United States and China. When Khomeini finds himself surrounded by international protest he will then be forced to abandon his ambitions and aspirations and will then be forced to revise his calculations and end the war.

The world has been affected by this war. It helped to encourage Israel to commit aggression and had adverse effects on internal security and stability in the Gulf States. Its effects then went beyond the region to Europe and Asia when it had severely affected the oil market.

But do not forget that there are international forces that have a direct interest in the continuation of this war in order to exhaust both countries. Some of these forces are adjacent to us and others are distant from us.

Pressure on Khomeini from world opinion will force him to stop pursuing the policy of terror against the Iranian people and his threats to these people that Saddam Hussein will swallow up their lands as he advances on Tehran. This prompts hundreds of young people daily to volunteer to fight in order to liberate their country.

Not despite all this a campaign of resistance and protest against the continuation of the war was launched a few months ago by several factions. A survey conducted by a government establishment early this month and whose results have not been released shows that only 40 percent of the public favors continuing the battle.

END

PAPER CRITICIZES PLO'S 'POLITICS OF DESPAIR'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by Ali Zulfiqari]

[Text]

THE most prominent feature played upon by the imperialist media and policy-makers has been the despair of the PLO since the Zionist occupation of Lebanon and dispersion of the Palestinian fighters throughout the Arab countries. The acceptance of the PLO of the imperialist intrigue to evacuate West Beirut turned a military deadlock into defeat.

It was the success of the U.S.-Zionist strategy that allowed the Zionist-imperialist media to boast blatantly about the success of the Zionist adventure into Lebanon. The Zionist Time Magazine in its issue of Dec. 13, 1982 wrote: "The leadership of the PLO may understand the significance of what happened in Lebanon this summer, but the message has not reached all guerillas, who are now scattered among Arab countries. The PLO spent a decade building a military establishment in Lebanon. Now it is gone, and the loss is so profound and irreparable that the very nature of the organization has changed."

The West Beirut episode may have been a temporary reversal, but the PLO despair that followed in its wake seems to have changed it into a crushing defeat. Here was an opportunity for the Palestinian leadership to evaluate its ideology and strategy; a chance to evaluate norms for distinguishing friends from enemies. Here was a situation that challenged the historical vision of the Palestinian leaders and demanded an initiative to remould the strategy within the context of the Global Islamic Movement.

Unfortunately the PLO leadership has proved that it not only lacks the courage and foresight for forging such a historical perspective, but that it is ready to succumb to easy, quick and dishonorable solutions. Instead of banking on the rising wave of Islamic awakening, the PLO has submitted to the proposals set forth by the dwindling imperialist

influence in the region of the Middle East.

The Zionist Time Magazine reports a West Bank mayor saying, "If the hard-liners have any alternative to offer, we will listen. But we are not interested in dreams any more. The most important thing now is to realize the urgency of the situation." Such a stand belies total insensitivity to the thrust of the Times. The Palestinians should know that it is the Zionists not they who have to beg for time. It is the Zionists who stand up to the ears in the rising tide of Islam in the whole of the Moslem world and it will not take long before they are swallowed in its current. If the time was on the Zionists' side, they would not so crazily scramble to establish settlements on the West Bank.

What is necessary is that the Palestinians should revise their ideology and strategy to utilize the mounting tide of Islam. Decades are moments in the history of nations and reversals however giddy, are only ups and downs on the highway of its destiny. Zionism, too, was no more than a remote dream when the Zionist Congress in 1897 in its Basle Declaration talked in muffled tones about the creation of a Zionist state. The Zionist state was made possible by the victory of British imperialism and collapse of the Ottoman empire, and its perpetuation by the rise of U.S. imperialism. Today, the British power has beaten disgraceful retreat to its island sanctuary and the Great Satan of U.S. imperialism dangles its feet in the ditch of destruction. The Soviet Union can never dare to overtly patronize the Zionist regime on account of its more than 50 million Moslem population. And even if it dared, the Moslems of the world will teach it a more indelible lesson than it is now learning in Afghanistan.

The Zionist state cannot stand alone and its destruction is a total certainty in the context of the Global Islamic Movement. It remains for the PLO to choose between an urgent disgrace and an everlasting honor, between a solution born of despair and a victory forged by vision and foresight, between integration within the rising Global Islamic Movement and integration within a dwindling imperialist ecumene, between enduring righteousness and ephemeral evil, between cooperation with the mobilized Moslem masses of the world and cooperation with the temporary traitors in power, between triumphant politics of courage and patience and the politics of defeat and despair.

FRANCE SAID TO BE PURSUING 'ISOLATION OF IRAN' POLICY

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 83 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson started a five-day tour of three Middle East states of Jordan, Iraq and Syria according to dispatches.

Meanwhile, French press commented that Cheysson's trip to the region was part of France's programme to help Iraq and in this connection although the French Foreign Ministry has completely remained silent, the trip is 'very sensitive and important' since the Iraq-Iran war has directly affected France.

Prior to his departure, Cheysson expressed Paris anxiety over final victories to be achieved by the Iranian combatants in the war fronts, adding that there were a number of other states in the region which were worried about the outcome of the war.

What has made Cheysson anxious is the spread of the Islamic Revolution in the region and imminent victory of the Islamic combatants in the Iraqi imposed war.

Political analysts in Tehran believe that political movement and later French military personnel's trip to the region are focussed on the solution of two major issues in the Persian Gulf area: 1-Elimination of the Islamic Revolution or limiting it to inside its boundaries, 2-To put an end to the war without the victory of the Islamic Republic, a scheme approved by

superpowers and delegated to France for implementation.

To confine the Islamic Revolution to the Islamic Republic is planned to be carried out through bringing closer the reactionary governments, an example of which is the formation of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council composed of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and the UAE.

At the conclusion of the war with no victory by the Islamic Republic, Mitterrand has stressed that the war should not result in victory of either party and that France was making efforts to establish a balance of military force in this war. This statement is made at the time when the world mass media had confessed to the imminent victory of the Islamic combatants in this Iraqi imposed war.

Following Mitterrand's comments in this respect, dispatch of various French and Soviet-made armaments to Iraq took a wider dimension and France, by granting huge loans to Baghdad, embarked on vicious endeavors to save Saddam from an inevitable downfall.

The motive to select France for such a purpose is laid in this country's hypocritical attitude towards the Third World and especially Moslem countries. One of the difficulties France is facing

in fulfilling its mission is the strong coordination of Iran and Syria. Syria, by taking explicit stance in supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Iraqi imposed war and by cutting the flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian pipeline, dealt a severe blow on Saddam's economy.

Contrary to what French press say on Cheysson's trip to the region, the main objective is the establishment of unity between Jordan, Iraq and Syria, isolating the Islamic Republic from Syria.

Because, international imperialism believes that with the separation of two fraternal countries of Iran and Syria, the Islamic Revolution would be limited to Iran and also with the re-flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian pipeline, Iraq would be rescued from a financial bankruptcy.

On the other hand unity of Jordan, Iraq and Syria would pave the way for vicious propaganda attempts to represent the Iraqi imposed war as a war of Arabs and non-Arabs.

However, today it is crystal clear that the war was commenced by Saddam with

Imperialism, Zionism and their lackeys on one end and Moslems and oppressed people of the world on the other.

The Iranian nation is now determined, for the restoration of legitimate rights of Arab people from Zionists, to remove a person called Saddam.

It should be noted that Cheysson's trip is taking place at a time when representatives of Iran, Libya and Syria in a gathering in Damascus, stress continuation of the fight until Saddam's overthrow which, in turn, has frightened international Imperialism.

The coordinated and allied move of Iran, Libya and Syria with their common stance in the fight against Zionism, has further endangered interests of Imperialism in this strategic and sensitive Persian Gulf region and in the Middle East and Africa.

Efforts underway in the region are aimed at separation of these three countries, ultimately damaging the Steadfastness Front and destroying the Islamic Revolution.

GHAFFAR KHAN CRITICIZED FOR COMMENTS, VIEWS

GF181212 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Feb 83 International Edition p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan--A Slave of Slaves?"]

[Excerpts] While addressing the students and correspondents in Dera Ismail Khan, the red shirt leader Khan Abdul Ghaffat Khan said that the Soviets are in power in Afghanistan and the Soviet spate in Afghanistan has destroyed the country.

This speech and its tone appeared to be different from the leader's previous utterances, and is closer to the truth. In fact this appears as a pleasant surprise and one wonders what caused this change of tone. Perhaps we are trying to convince ourselves with such thoughts. The Khan has also said that Afghanistan has become the arena of a power struggle between the two super-powers--the United States and the Soviet Union--and has warned Pakistan that the Soviet torrent is at Pakistan's doorstep because the Soviet Union considers Pakistan to be a supporter of those elements which are fighting against it.

Mr Ghaffar Khan's chronic and usual practice has been to blame Pakistan for everything. He has said, on the one hand that the Sindhis, Punjabis, Pathans and Baluchis should unite and stem the Soviet tide which could embroil Pakistan in a war which could lead to its complete annihilation, while on the other hand he has said that the "rat race" for more power and money has made the whole Pakistani nation "a slave of slaves."

What Mr Ghaffar Khan has said about national unity without any kind of national discrimination without a doubt must be lauded, and the talk about power, lust and money is also true, but what does he actually mean by "a slave of slaves?" Who is the slave and who the enslaved? Is he trying to imply that Pakistan has been created to be subservient and has not been able to cut off the trammels of colonialism and thus has become a "slave of slaves?" And is he insinuating that if we had become "United India," we would have been free and independent?

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan complains that no one could understand him in Pakistan which seems true because his utterances have been very cryptic; "an enigma--which cannot be solved." For most people it cannot be attributed to the

people's lack of perception but to the strange politics of Chaffar Khan. Ever since the inception of Pakistan he has claimed to be a "Khudai Khidmatgar" ["servant of humanity"--name of Chaffar Khan's party] but he has done nothing, absolutely nothing for anyone.

Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union and the United States are poised against each other on the international level and the Soviet usurpation of Afghanistan is part of this scene, but this is clearly an act of aggression and expansionism by the Soviet Union and the large-scale devastation in Afghanistan is the result of this aggression. Things may not be perfect in Pakistan, but in no way are the Pakistanis "slaves of slaves" despite their weaknesses and shortcomings. If the Khan wants people to respect him due to his old age, then he must take into account the susceptibilities of the Pakistani nation and respect them and to halt this attitude of disrespect and slander.

CSO: 4656/110

'DAWN' URGES END TO SECTARIAN STRIFE

GF281305 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 83 p 7

[Editorial: "Call for Sanity"]

[Text] All right-minded people across the nation will be deeply anguished by the eruption of sectarian strife and violence in Karachi on Tuesday, resulting in the death of five persons, injuries to many more and considerable damage to public and private property. The scale and intensity of the incidents were such that the provincial government has had to impose curfew in the disturbed areas in an attempt to prevent further clashes and to restore public order. It is somewhat chastening to realise how worked-up passions and emotions, especially when they are aroused in the name of causes which people are wont to hold dear and sacred, have a way of getting out of the control of leaders and turning into a blind, destructive force for the whole community. Tuesday's outbreak of violence was all the more tragic because it was wholly unnecessary. From all accounts and as clearly set forth in Monday's government press note, the representatives of Sawad-i-Azam Ahl-i-Sunnat [Sunni Organization] and Anjuman Fidayan-i-Panjtan [Shi'ite Organization] had reached agreement on the remaining point of difference between them, namely the status and utilisation of the controversial plot no. ST-60 in New Karachi. Under the agreement, the plot was to be returned to the KDA on the assurance by the administration that it won't be used for religious purposes and that the KDA was to provide an alternative plot to the Anjuman for shifting its imambargah from its present disputed location. The representatives of both the Sunni and Shia communities had expressed complete satisfaction with these arrangements and accepted the accord without any reservations.

Obviously, an end of strife between the two sects did not suit the purposes of a section of extremists and malcontents who did their worst to sabotage the accord and fomented. Tuesday's troubles and clashes: It must be stressed that in an atmosphere of frayed nerves and unabated tension, even a tiny spark is enough to set off a big explosion of lawlessness and disorder. The small group of recalcitrants who were responsible for Tuesday's tragic happenings obviously took advantage of such a situation which, unfortunately, has existed since the sectarian clash of 28 January over the siting of an imambargah in New Karachi.

No useful purpose would be served by going into the detailed aspects of the differences at issue in the present episode or the modes and methods which each side adopted in pressing forward its point of view. The essential need of the moment is for the sane majority, irrespective of their sectarian affiliations, to assert themselves against the forces of violence and strife still active among sections of the two communities and help restore peace and public order in the affected areas. The leaders of opinion on both sides must realise their crucial responsibility in the present situation and join hands together to call a halt to the madness that has swayed sections of the people in this city these last many days. They must not sit idly by and let things drift while a handful of zealots and trouble-makers find it possible to unleash lawlessness and disorder and, on one pretext or another, tear sectarian harmony and peace and order in the city to shreds.

CSO: 4600/367

PAKISTAN

TRADE TIES WITH KUWAIT TO EXPAND

GF011236 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb--The Federal Commerce Secretary, Mr Izharul Haq, has said that a joint Pakistan-Kuwait committee would be formed to expand trade between the two countries.

Mr Izhar visited Kuwait last Wednesday on his way back from Baghdad to Pakistan.

He told APP that he discussed the possibility of forming a joint committee with the chairman of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He also emphasised the need of frequent exchanges of delegations between Kuwait and Pakistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During his three-day stay in Kuwait he also conferred with his Kuwaiti counterpart, 'Abdallah al-Hamad. Their talks tackled different fields of bilateral economic, trade cooperation and the establishment of a number of joint projects.

The federal commerce secretary said he also explored the possibility of establishing a permanent display centre in Kuwait for Pakistani products. He said in this centre some of the items would also be available for sale.

Mr Izharul Haq said that during his meeting here with Kuwaiti officials, businessmen and Pakistani community members he found a genuine desire for expanding trade relations with Pakistan.

He said that with the exception of rice and cotton all of Pakistan's exports were in the hands of private exporters. The government was exerting all efforts to facilitate and encourage the traders to boost exports of the country, he added.

During his meetings with the members of the Pakistani community here he was requested to follow up the demand for a direct Kuwait--Lahore flight which the community was urging for the last many years.

In Baghdad, Mr Izharul Haq attended an UNCTAD meeting of Asian group. Pakistan is an active member of the so-called Group of 77 along with Kuwait and Iraq.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, TRADE DEFICITS REPORTED

BK281740 Hong Kong AFP in English 1723 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Karachi, 28 Feb (AFP)--Pakistan's balance of payments registered a deficit of 11.493 billion rupees (898 million dollars) in 1981-82 as compared to 7.42 billion rupees (580 million dollars) the previous year, the Bank of Pakistan reported today.

The extra 4,073 billion rupees (218 million dollars) was mainly due to larger import payments and lesser export earnings, offset partly by an increase in net receipts under unrequited transfers.

The trade deficit increased to 36.458 billion rupees (2.85 billion dollars) in 1981-82 from 27.373 billion rupees (2.14 billion dollars) in 1980-81.

The increase in the trade gap over the previous year was the combined result of larger import payments by 6.048 billion rupees (473 million dollars) and export earnings lower by 3.037 billion rupees (237 million dollars).

In the general government sector, long-term loan disbursements net of repayment totalled 2.072 billion rupees (162 million dollars) as compared with 2.951 billion rupees (231 million dollars) the previous year.

Total utilisation and repayment of long-term loans and credits amounted to 7.418 billion rupees (580 million dollars) and 3.208 billion rupees (251 million dollars) respectively.

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